

SIRENS OF THE NORSE SEA

GIHEF
& DOMINICI

THE TWO WORLDS
OF FREYDIS



HUMANOID

THE TWO WORLDS OF FREYDIS



HOW MUCH LONGER, HALFDAN?

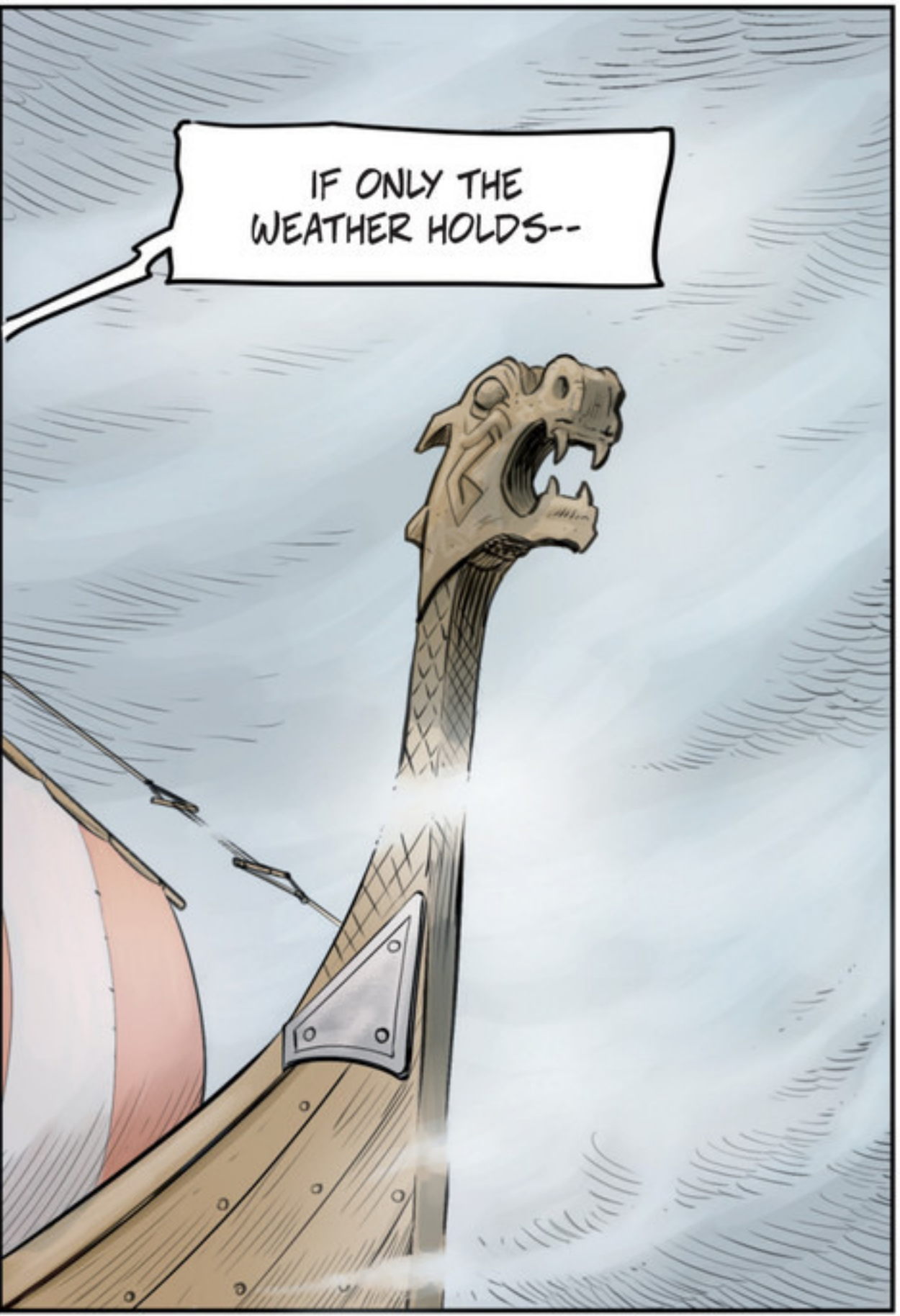


WE'LL SPOT THE COAST BEFORE THE SUN SETS, O ARNUALD! THE SKY AND SEA ARE CLEMENT.

GREAT. HURRY THE MEN!



I CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE THIS VOYAGE'S SUCCESS!



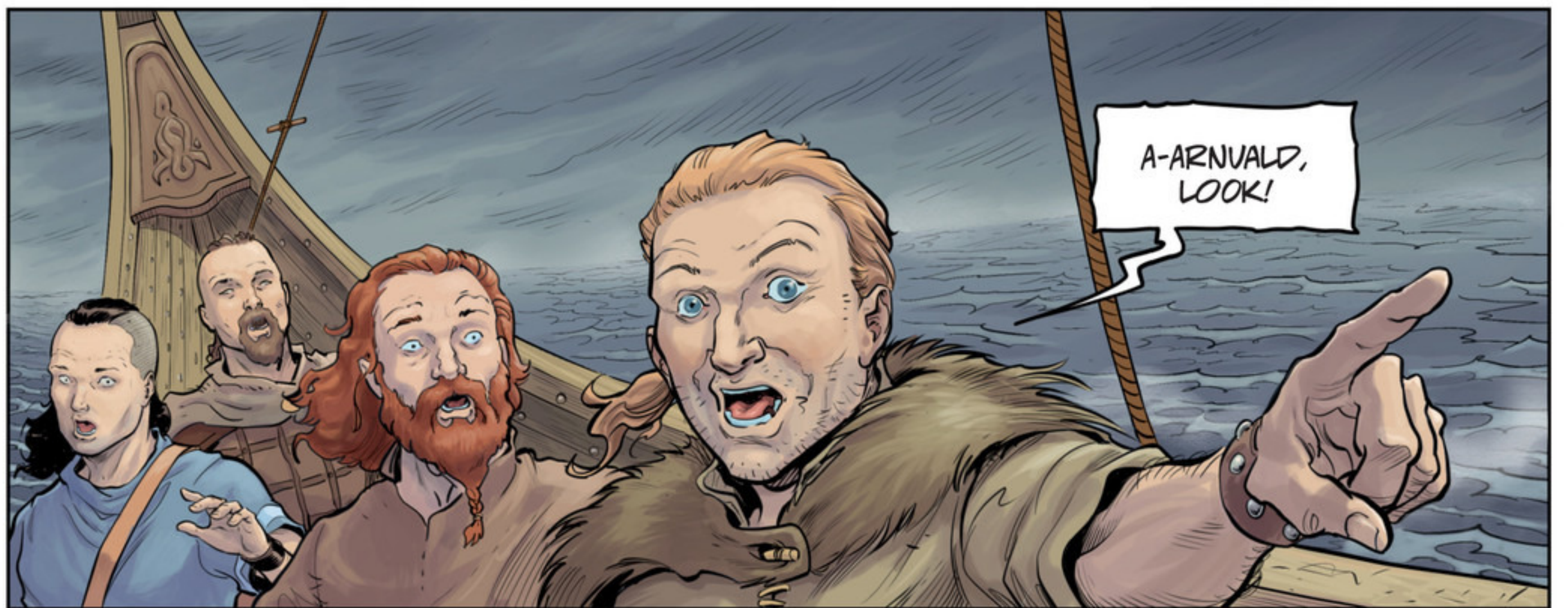
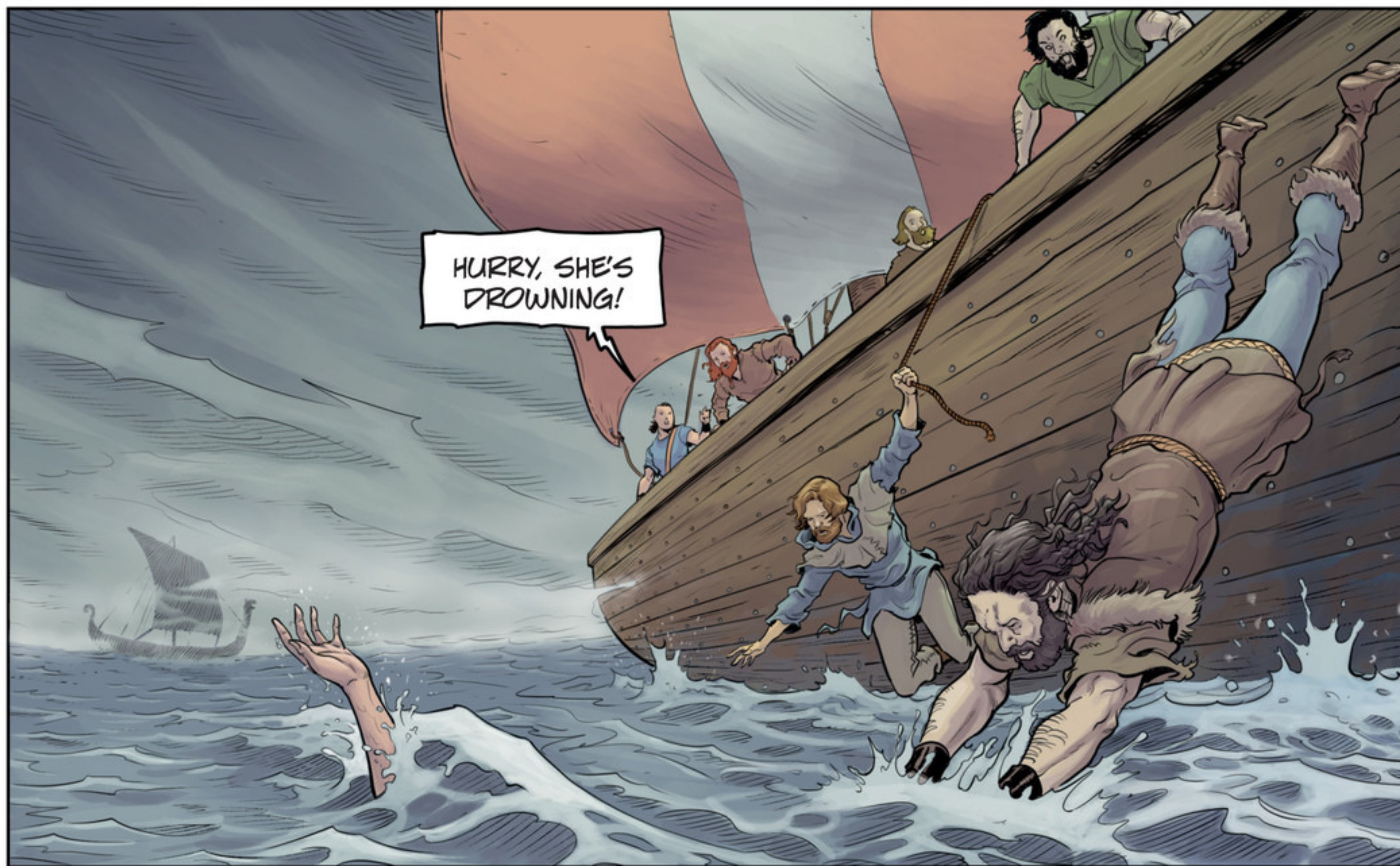
IF ONLY THE WEATHER HOLDS--

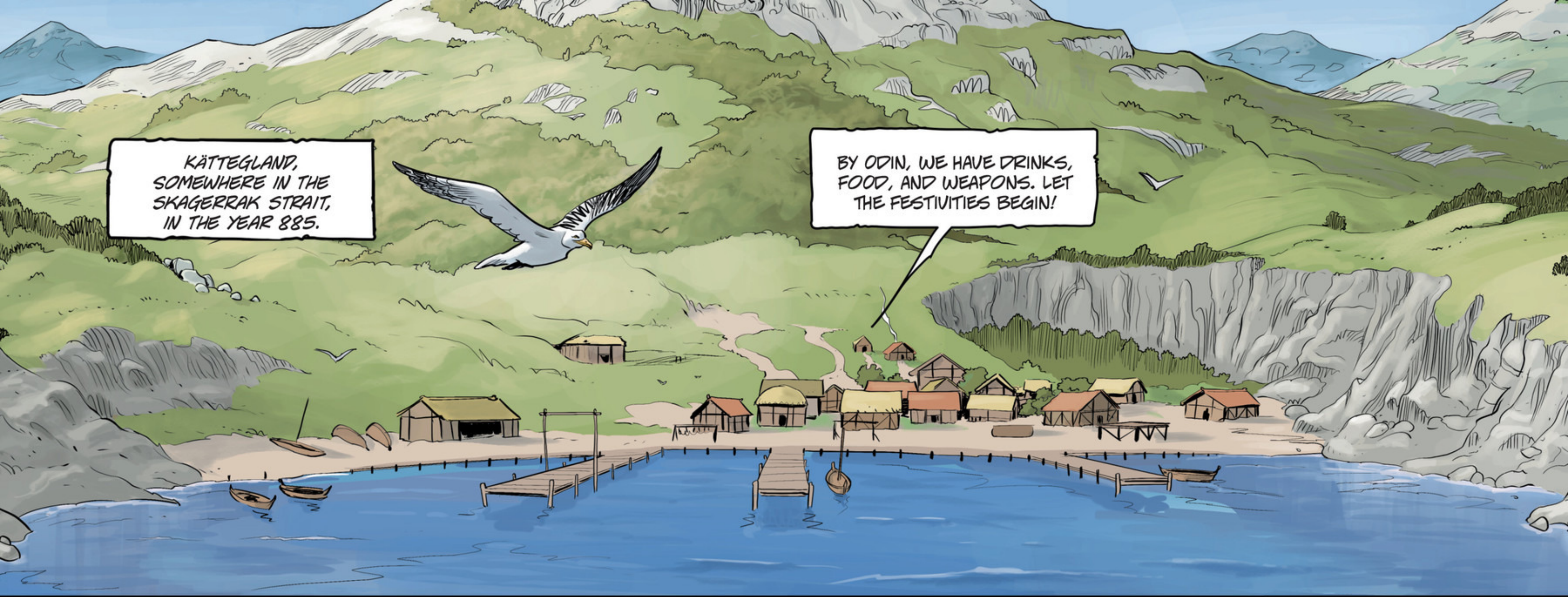


IIIEEEEEEE



THERE, LOOK!





KATTEGLAND,
SOMEWHERE IN THE
SKAGERRAK STRAIT,
IN THE YEAR 885.

BY ODIN, WE HAVE DRINKS,
FOOD, AND WEAPONS. LET
THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!



I'LL BET A FULL BAG
OF HERRINGS THAT OAF LEIDULF
IS SO DRUNK HE'LL FALL INTO HIS
OWN PISS AT THE NEXT BLOW.

HAHAHA!

STAY NIMBLE,
EIGIL!



TCHUK

RAAAAH!



HAHAHAHAHAHA!

STEP ASIDE. THIS
FARCE HAS GONE
ON FAR TOO LONG.

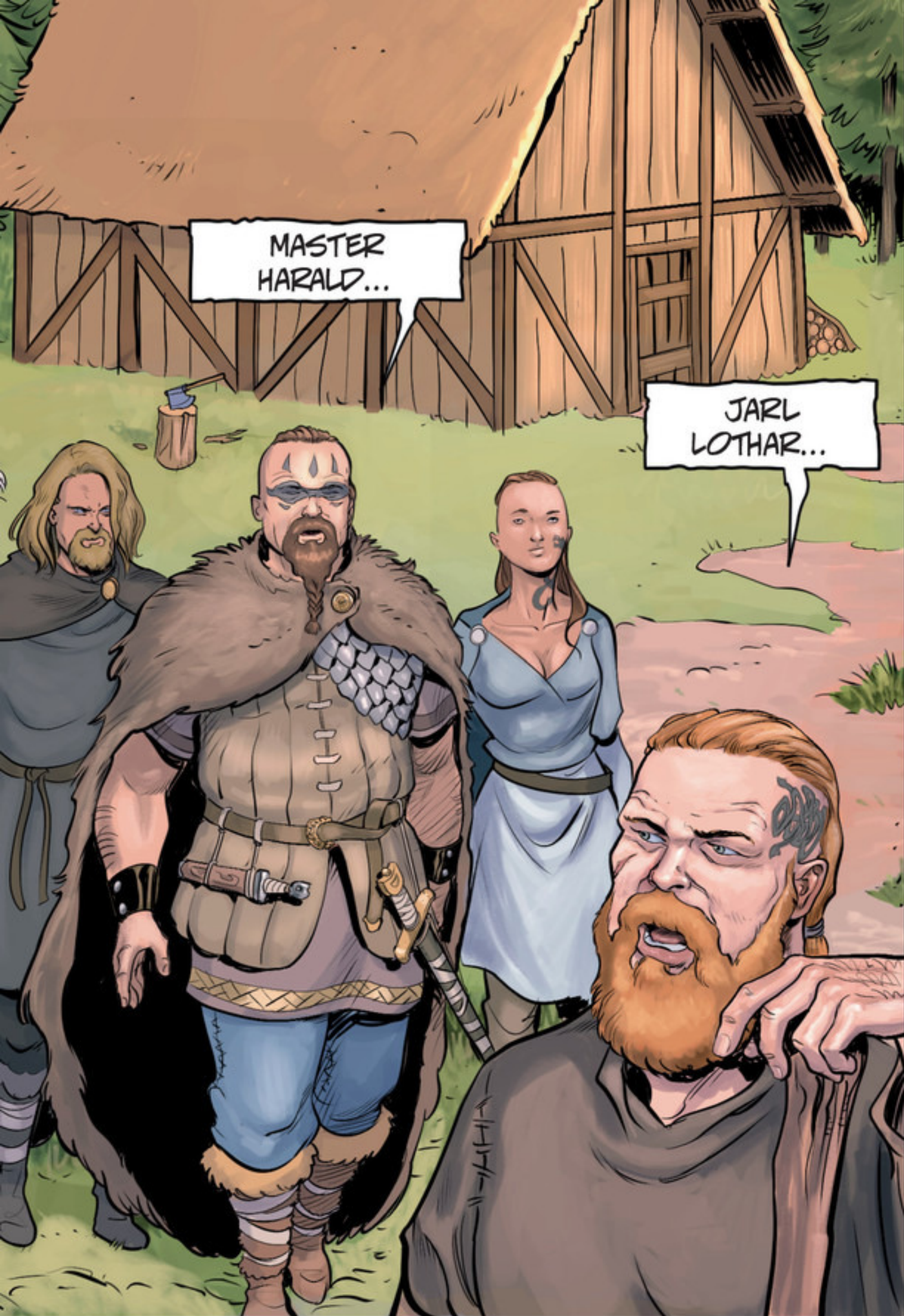


SLEEP IT OFF,
MEAD BAG!



TAKE IT EASY, FREYDIS!
YOU AREN'T PILLAGING
CHRISTIAN LAND.

CLANK



MASTER HARALD...

JARL LOTHAR...

TELL ME, IS THAT REIDOLF'S DAUGHTER I SEE BOSSING POOR EIGIL AROUND?



HMM. INDEED...

I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF OUR MOST TALENTED FIGHTERS?



HE WAS. BUT FREYDIS HAS BECOME A FORMIDABLE WARRIOR.



SHE HAS THE RAGE OF A BERSERKER AND THE AGILITY OF AN ELF. I OFTEN HAVE TO STEP IN AND STOP THE FIGHTS WHEN SHE TRAINS. SHE DROPS HER OPPONENTS LIKE FLIES.



WHERE DO YOU THINK SHE GETS HER FEROCIOUSNESS FROM?

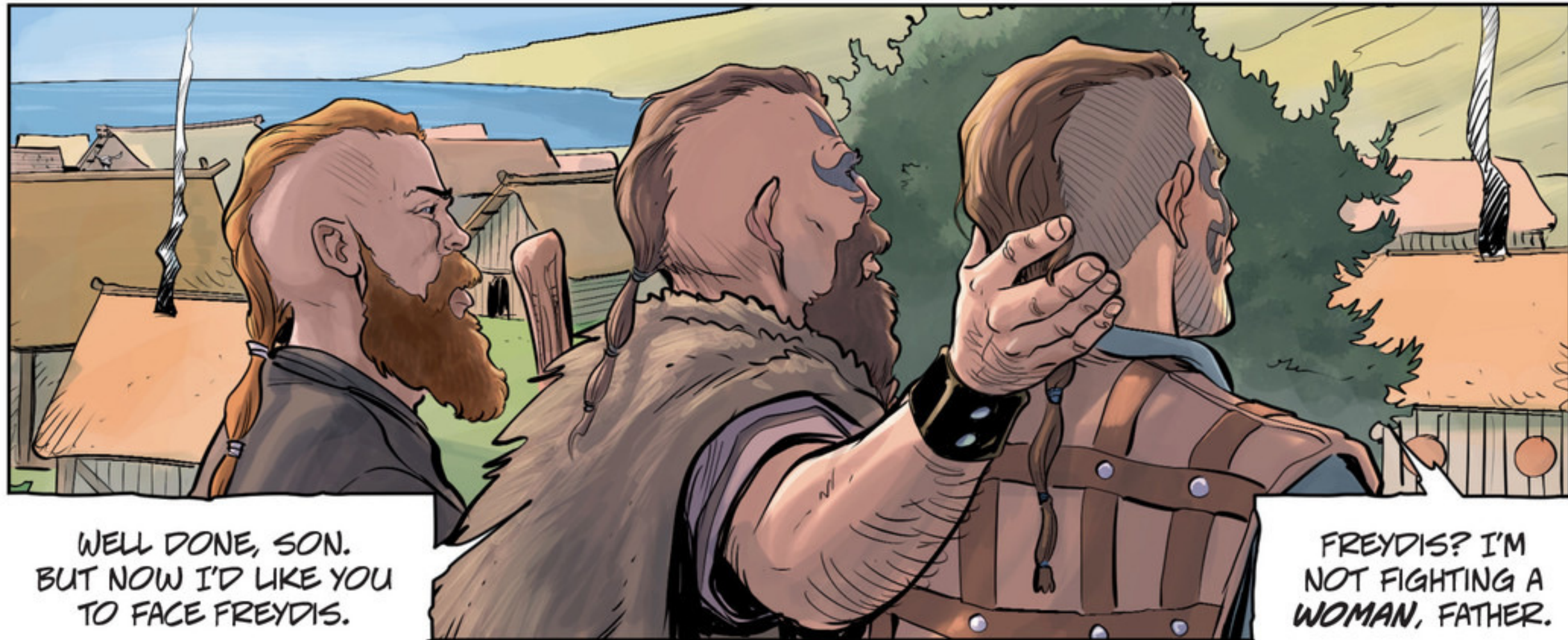


SHE DEFINITELY CHANGED AFTER REIDOLF'S DEATH. SHE ALSO GAINED A LOT OF SELF-CONFIDENCE OVER THE YEARS.

HEY, FATHER! DID YOU SEE THAT? I DISARMED LEIF IN TWO BLOWS.



WELL DONE, SON. BUT NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO FACE FREYDIS.



FREYDIS? I'M NOT FIGHTING A WOMAN, FATHER.

DO AS I SAY! YOU'RE THE FUTURE JARL OF KÄTTEGLAND. AND IF FREYDIS WINS, I'LL DISOWN YOU.

Y... YES, FATHER...





SO, HOW WAS MY SON'S TRAINING THIS MORNING? WILL HE BE READY TO CRACK SOME ENGLISH SKULLS ON OUR NEXT EXPEDITION?

SURELY, MY JARL. SVEIN IS STRONG AND POWERFUL, BUT HE LACKS SPEED. HE'LL NEED TO RELY ON STRENGTH, WHICH--



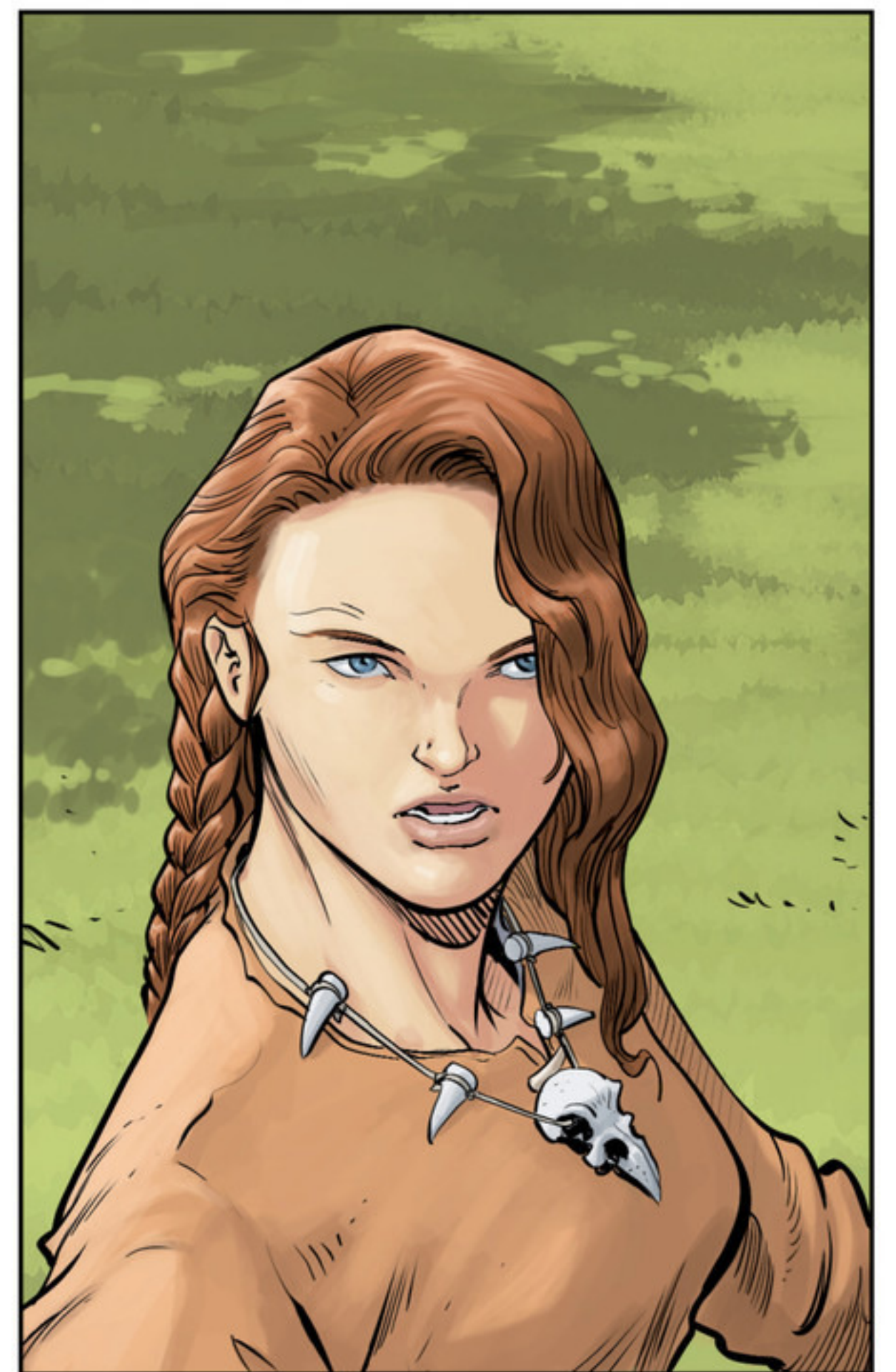
IT SEEMS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH HAS ARRIVED.

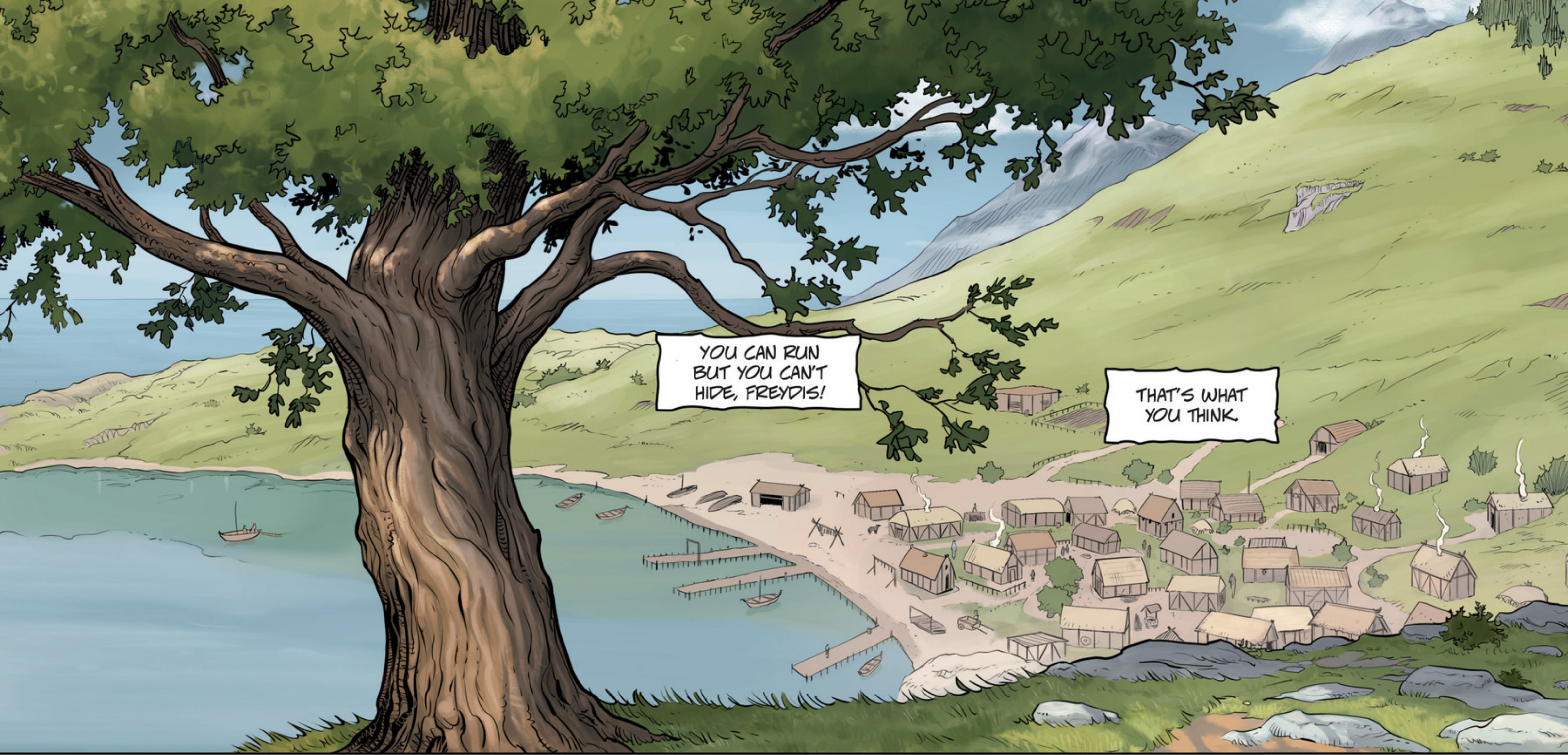


MM, INDEED.



HA!





YOU CAN RUN
BUT YOU CAN'T
HIDE, FREYDIS!

THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK.

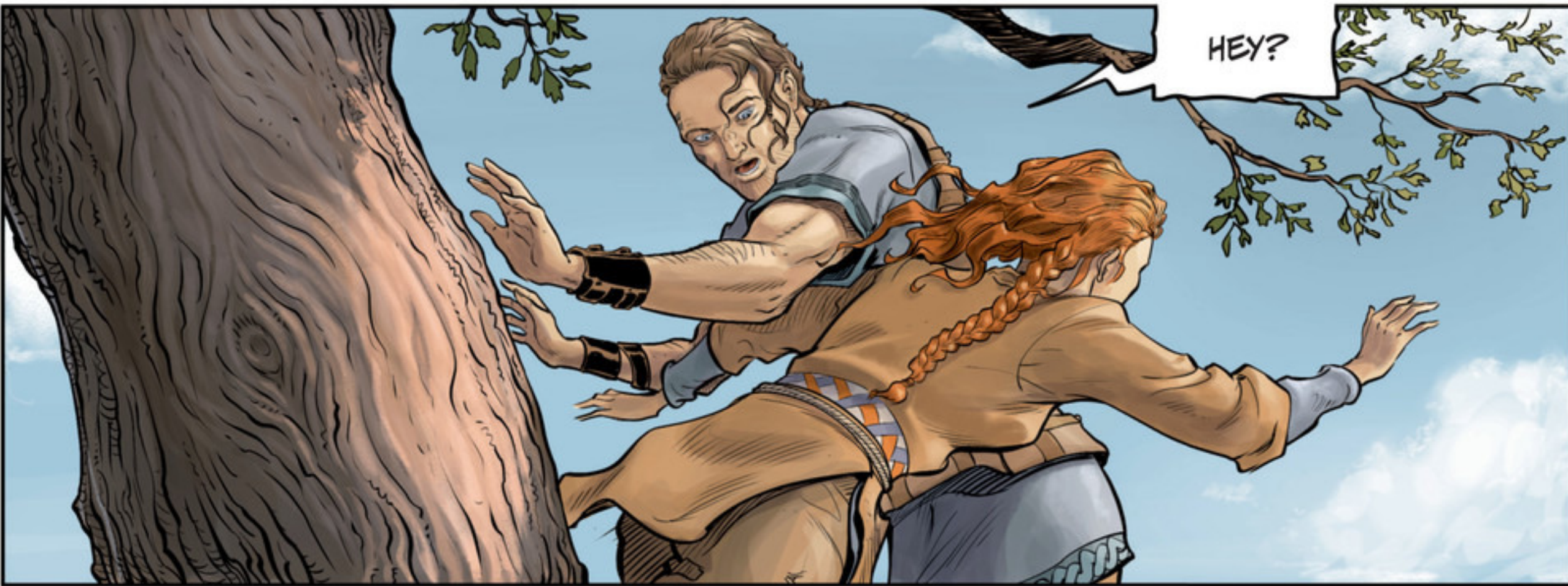


I'VE GOT
YOU NOW.

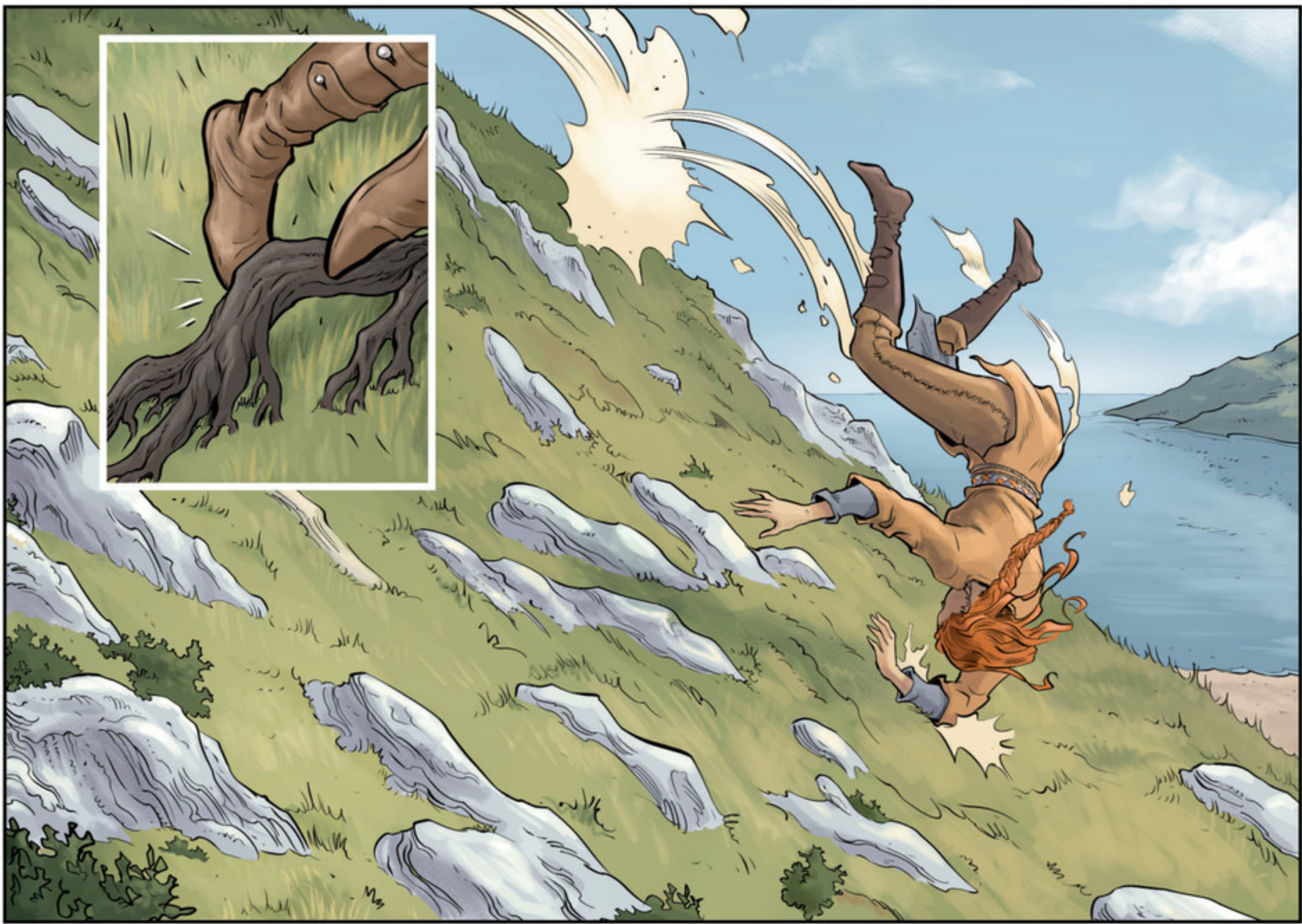
HAHAHA!



NOW YOU OWE
ME A KISS.



HEY?



SPAK



FREYDIS? ARE...
ARE YOU OKAY?

OUCH! I FEEL LIKE A
SEAGULL JUST LAID
AN EGG IN MY HAIR.

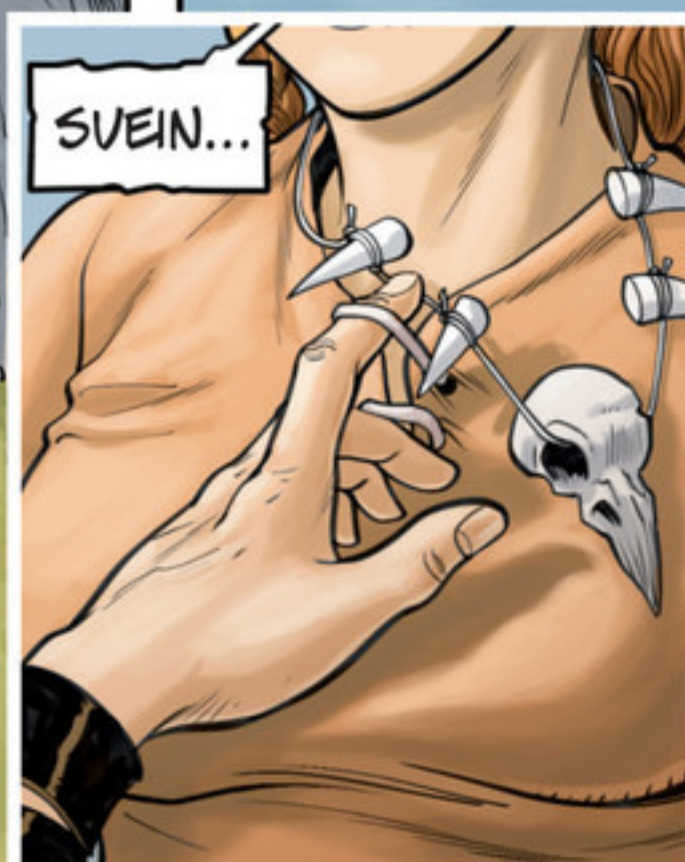
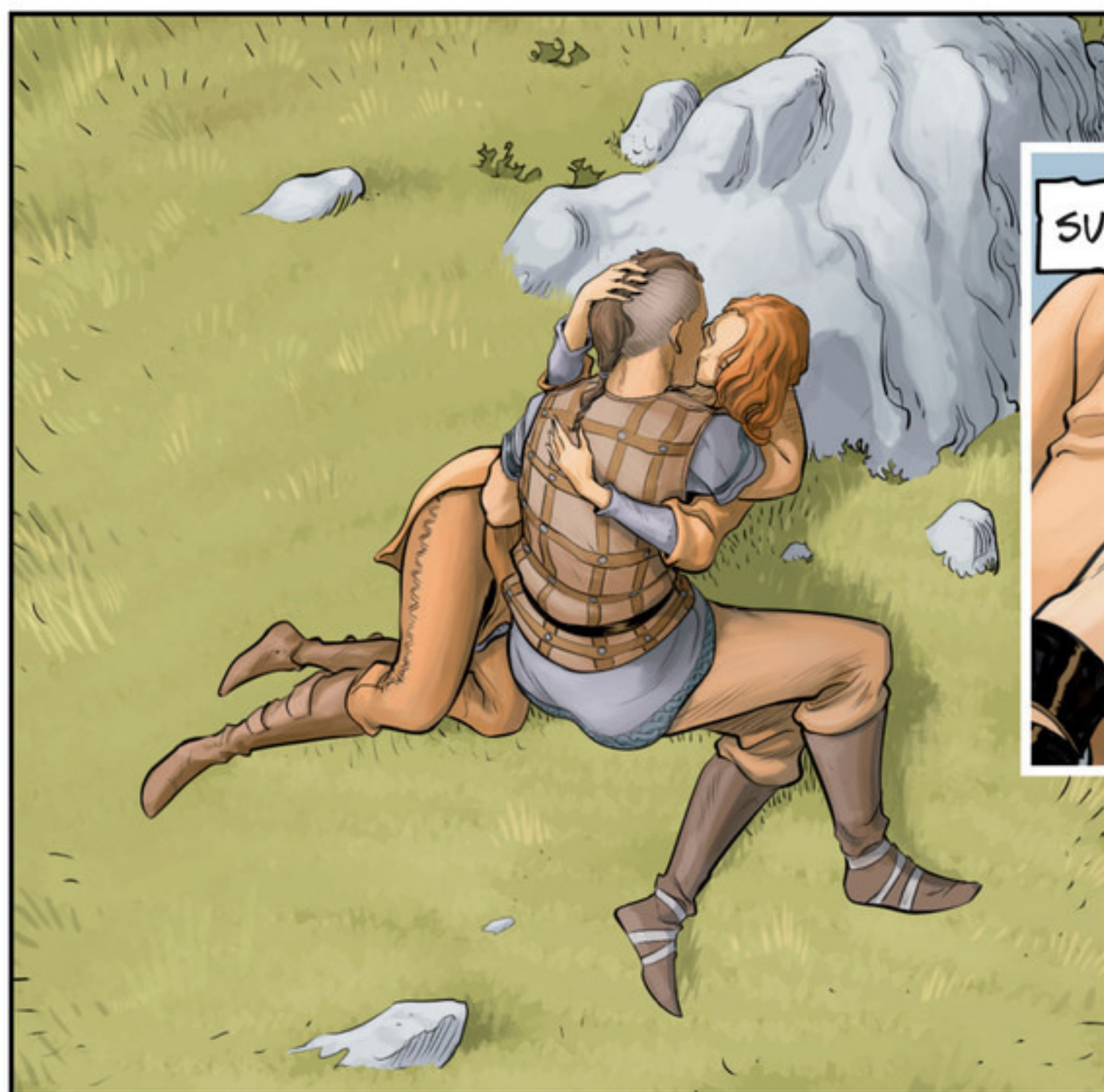


HAHAHAHAHA!

YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
NUTS.



BUT I LOVE YOU
SO MUCH.



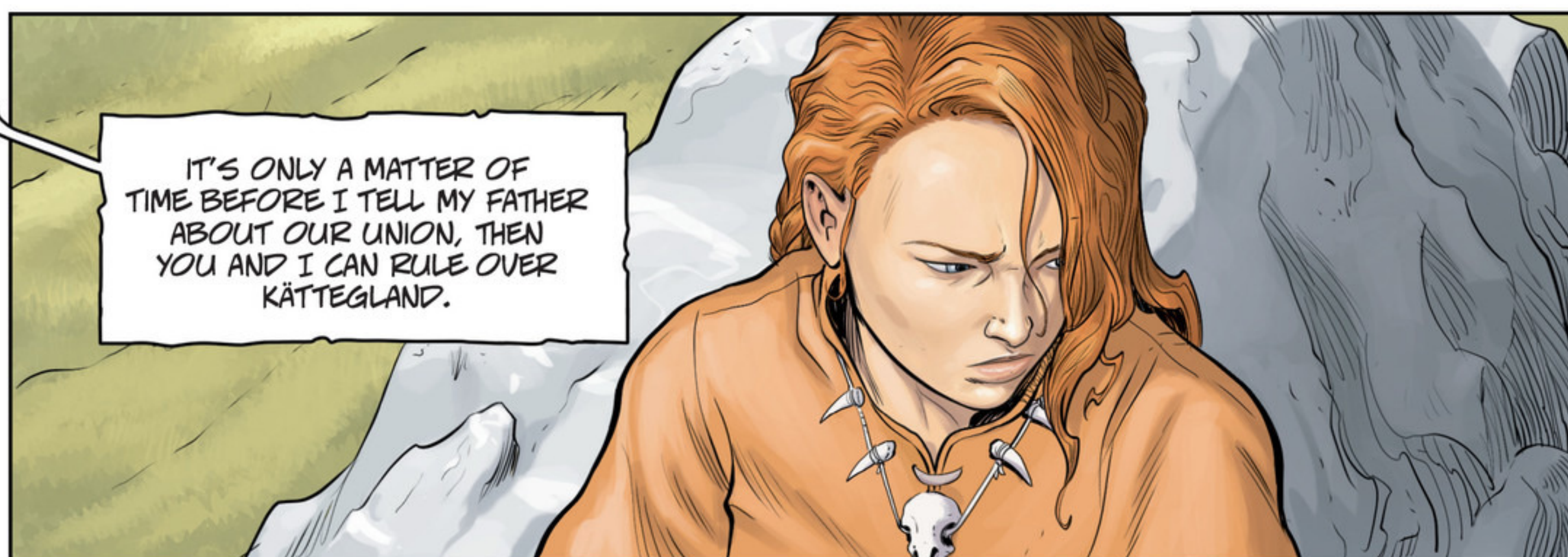
SVEIN...



... STOP!



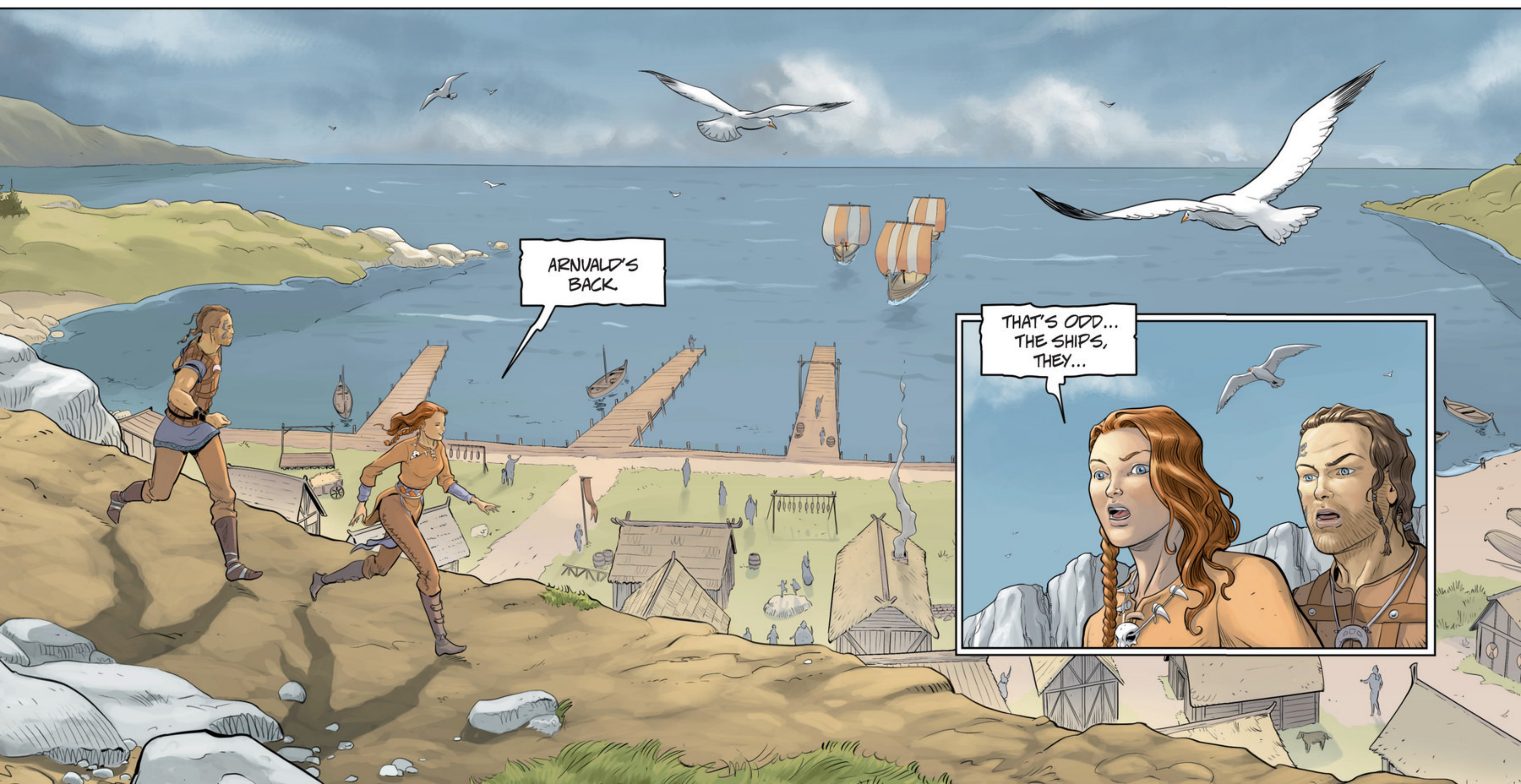
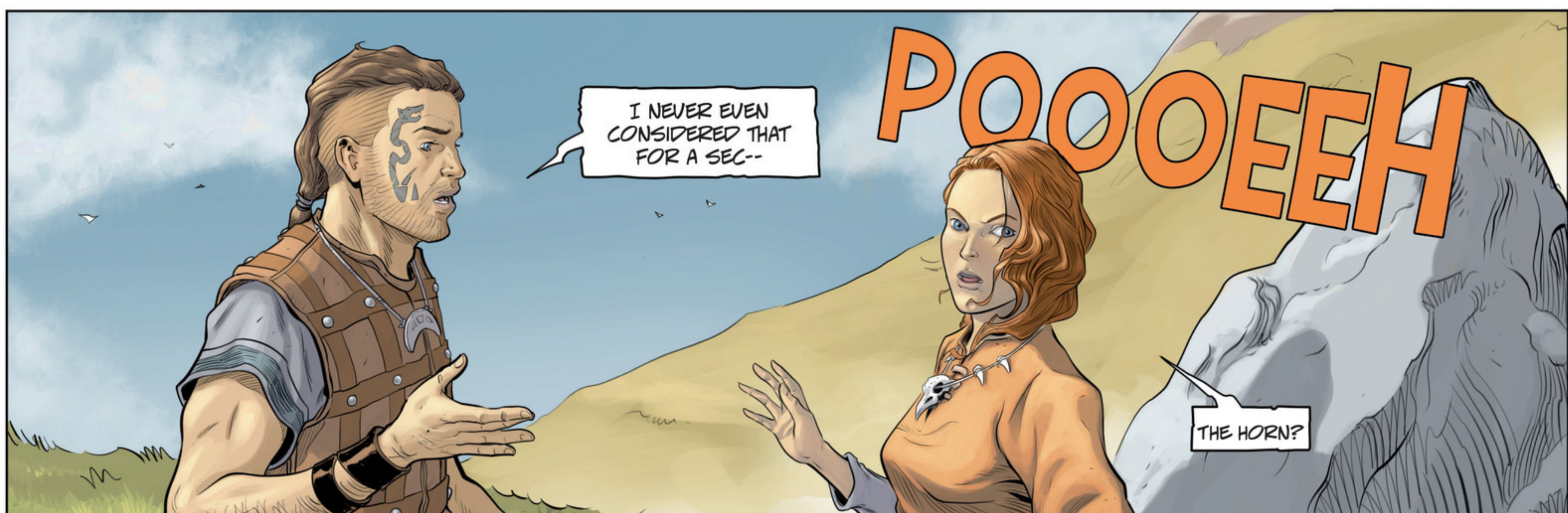
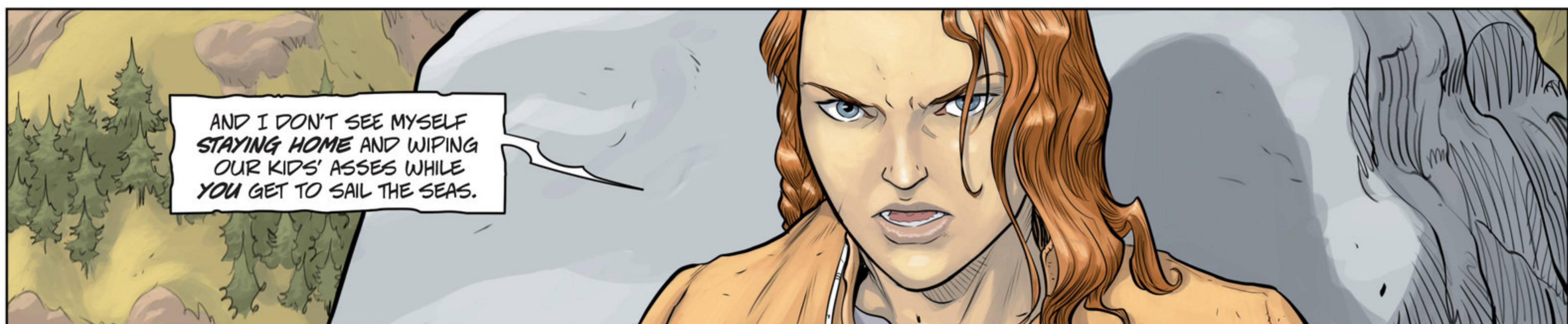
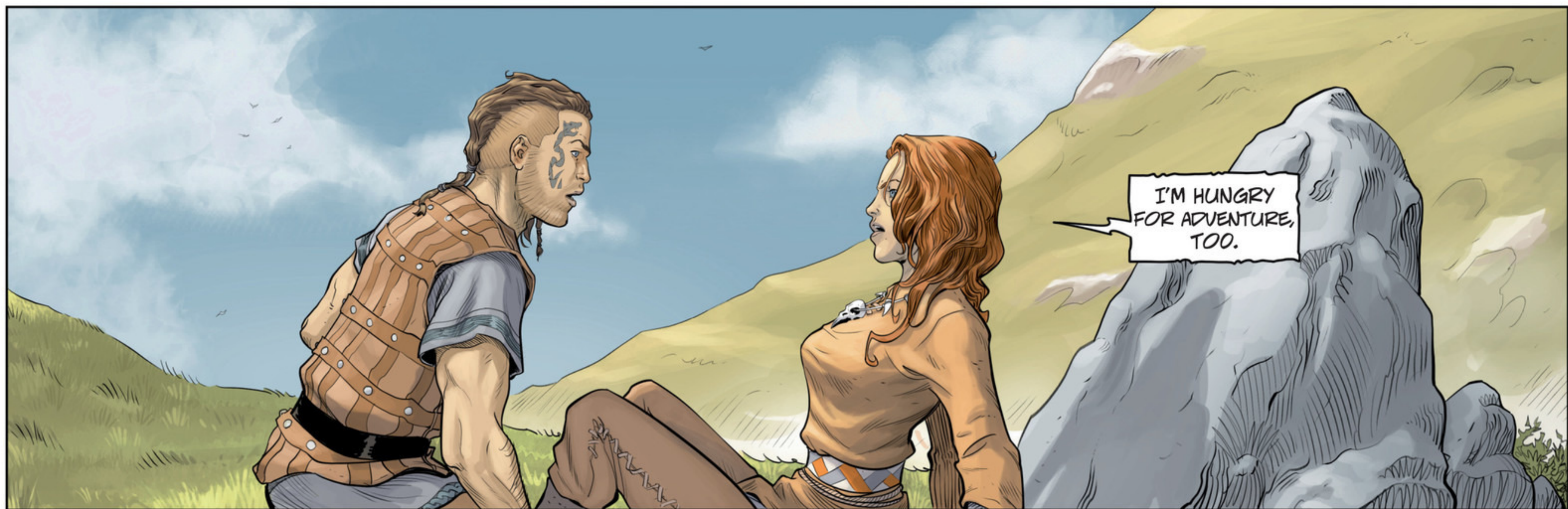
WHAT IS IT
WITH YOU?
WHY DO YOU
PUSH ME AWAY?

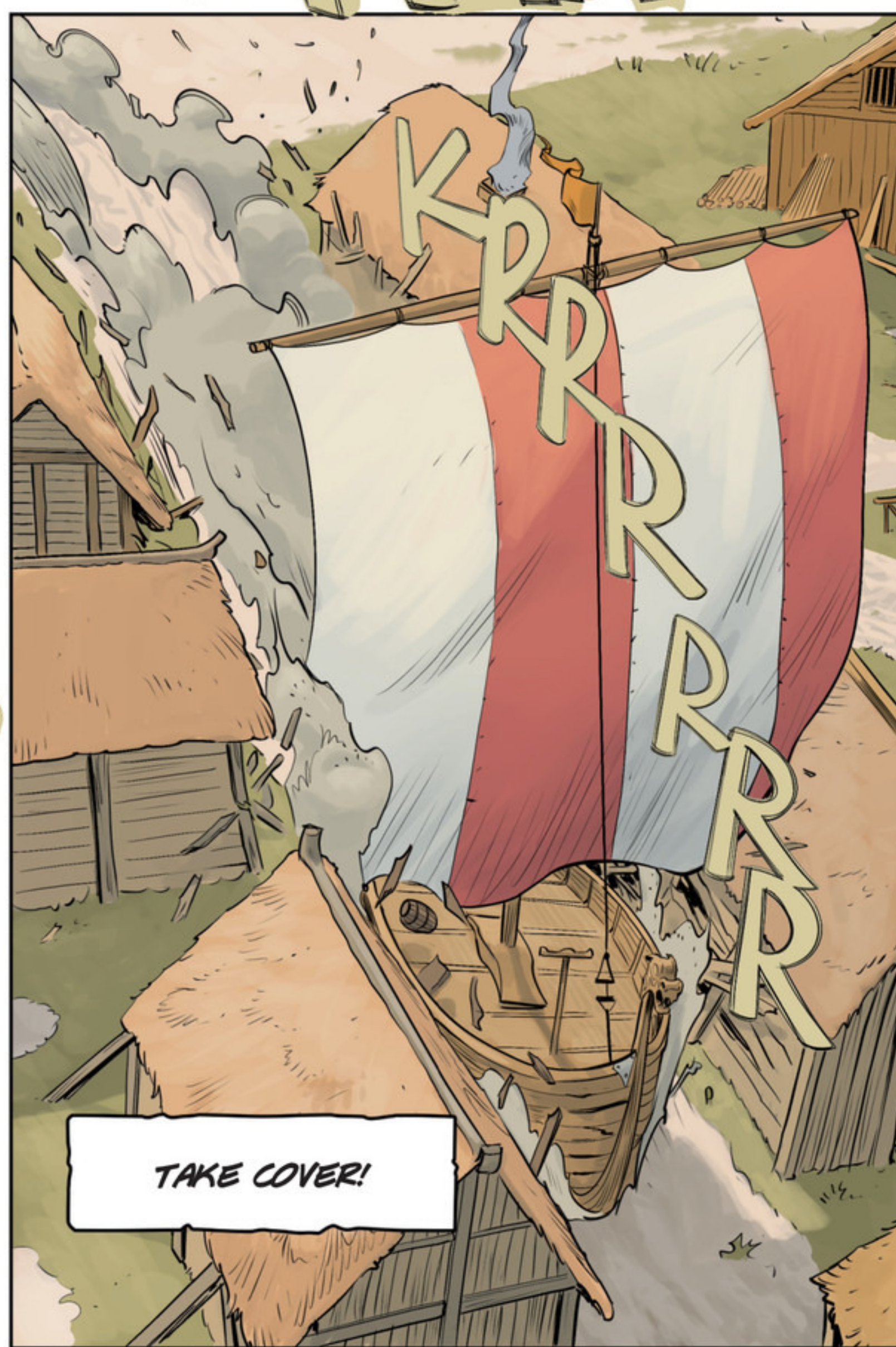


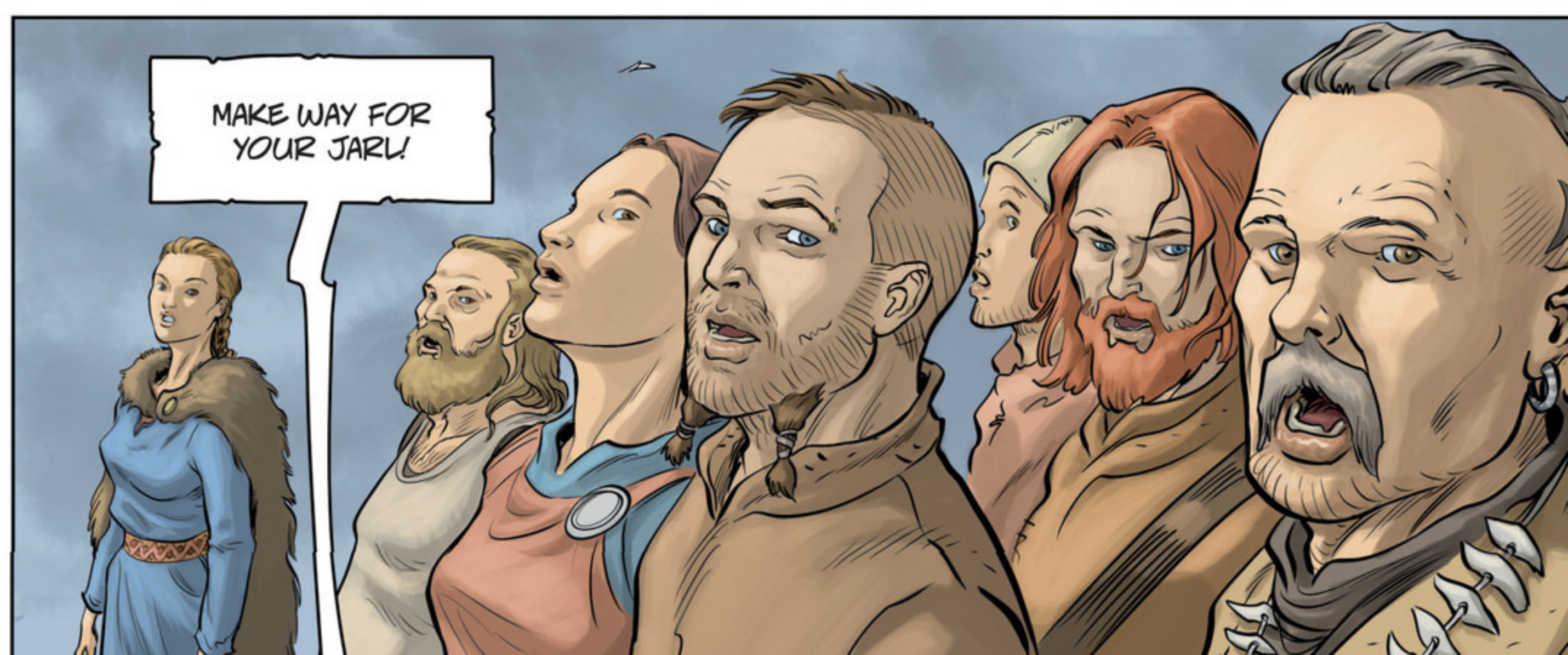
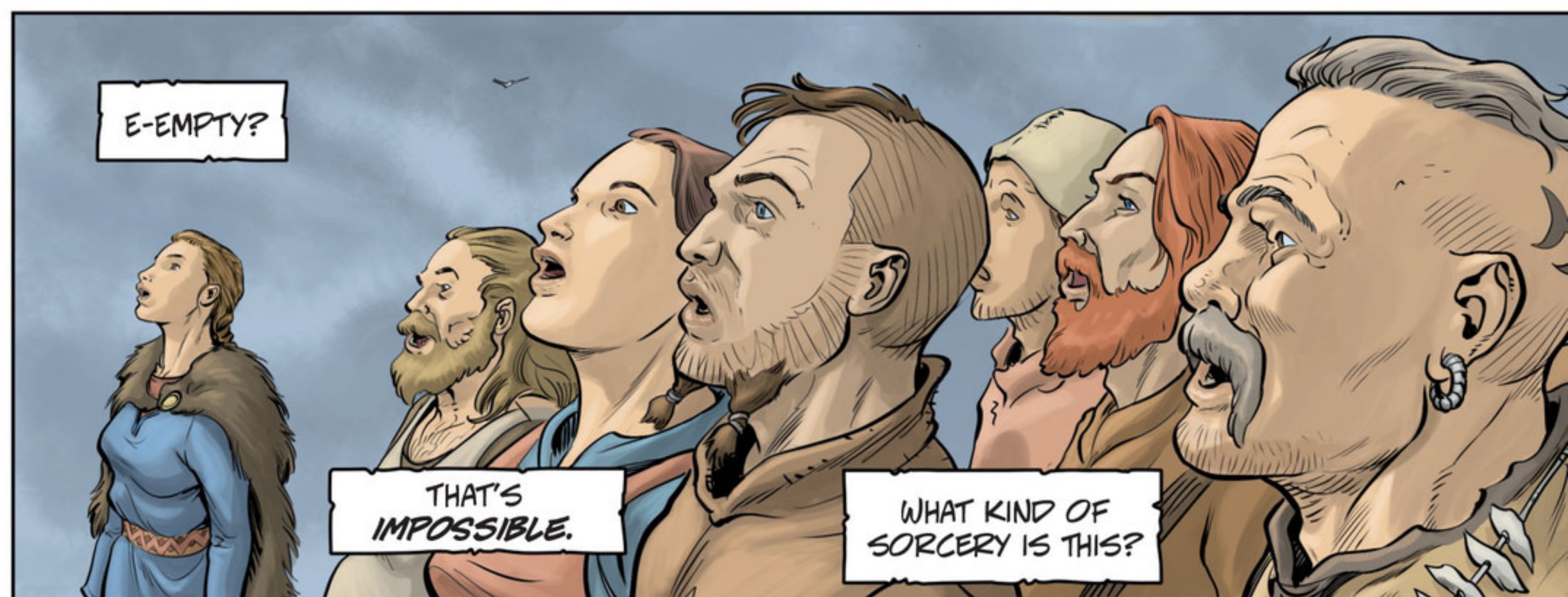
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE I TELL MY FATHER
ABOUT OUR UNION, THEN
YOU AND I CAN RULE OVER
KÄTTEGLAND.



ANSWER ME!









EVERYONE STAY CALM. THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS.

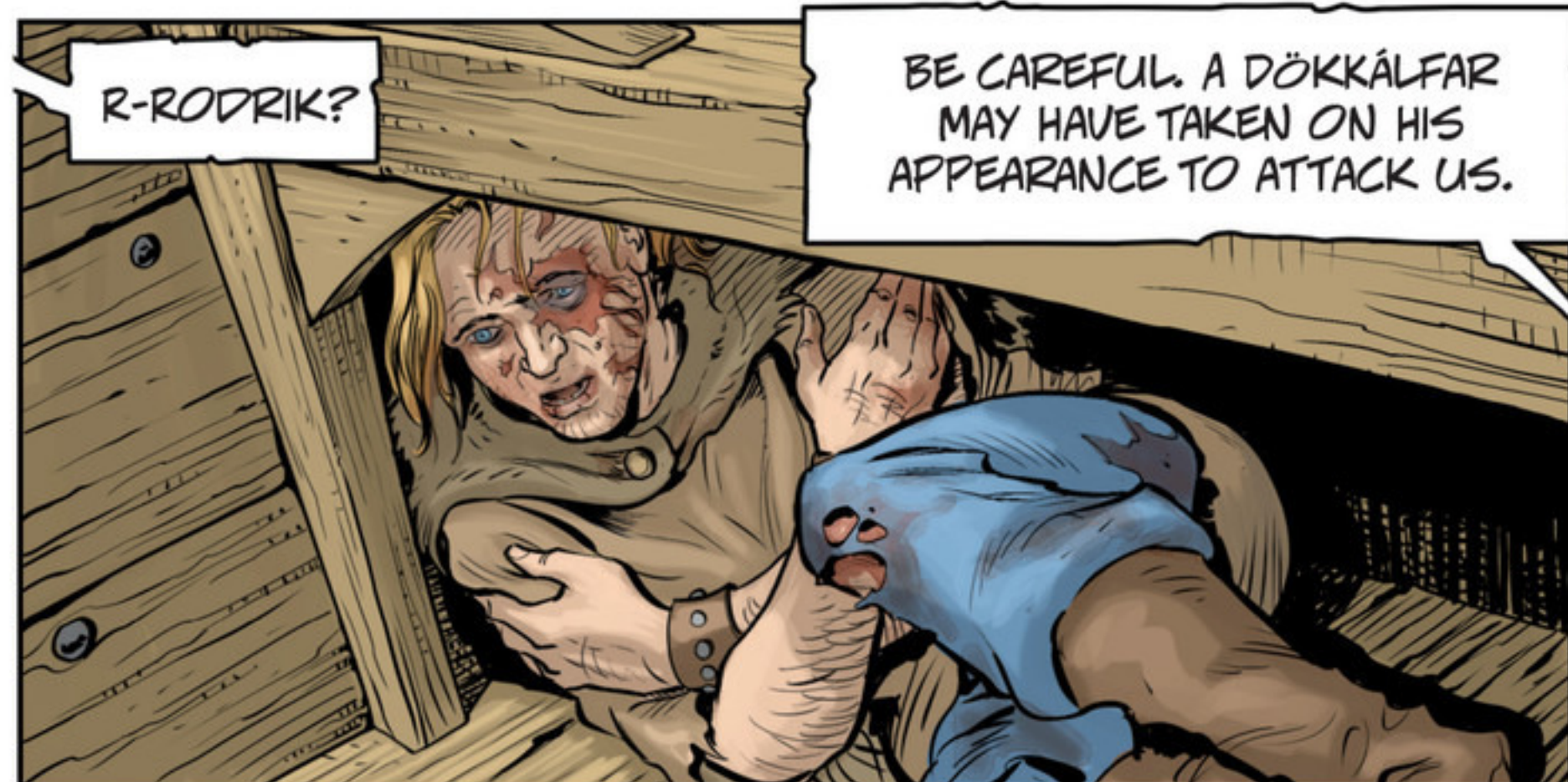


I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY TALK ABOUT WITCHCRAFT AHEAD OF THE DISAB--?

HEY, OVER HERE!



I... I FOUND SOMETHING.



R-RODRIK?

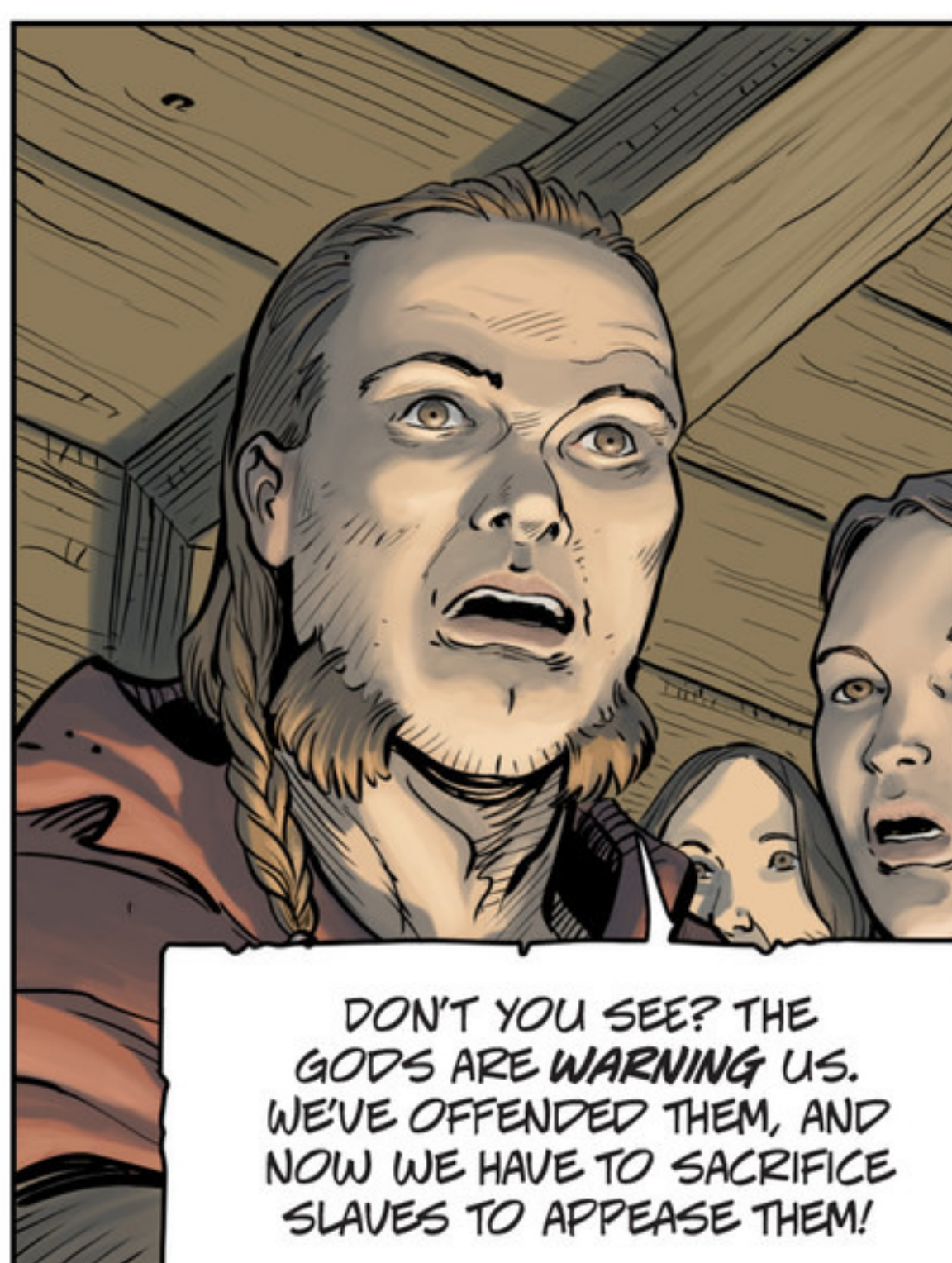
BE CAREFUL. A DÖKKÁLFAR MAY HAVE TAKEN ON HIS APPEARANCE TO ATTACK US.



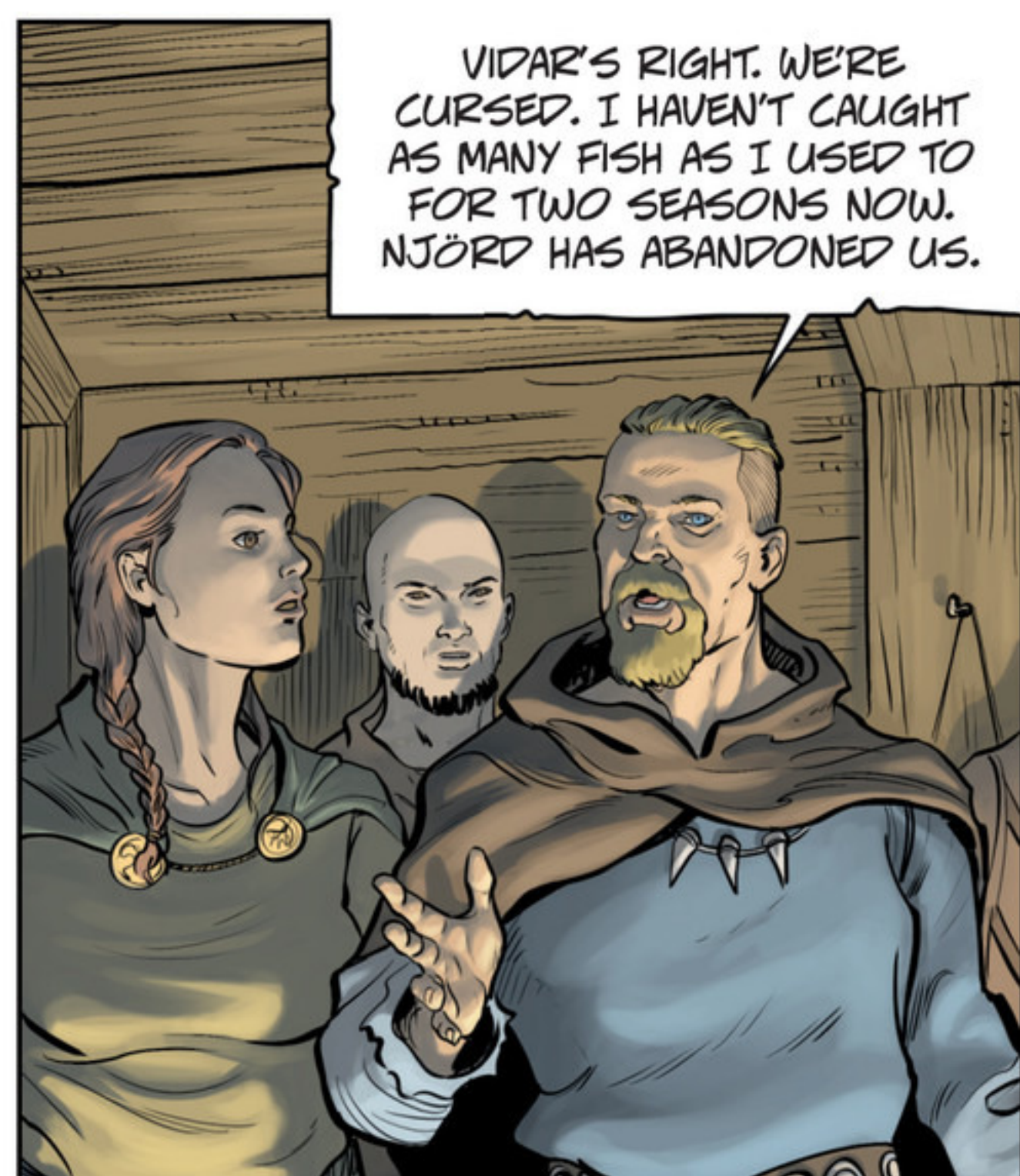
A STORM? I DON'T BUY THAT FOR A SECOND.



ARNVALD IS THE FINEST SAILOR WE HAVE. HE'S BRAVED COUNTLESS STORMS AND BROUGHT HIS KNARR HOME SAFE AND SOUND EACH TIME.



DON'T YOU SEE? THE GODS ARE WARNING US. WE'VE OFFENDED THEM, AND NOW WE HAVE TO SACRIFICE SLAVES TO APPEASE THEM!



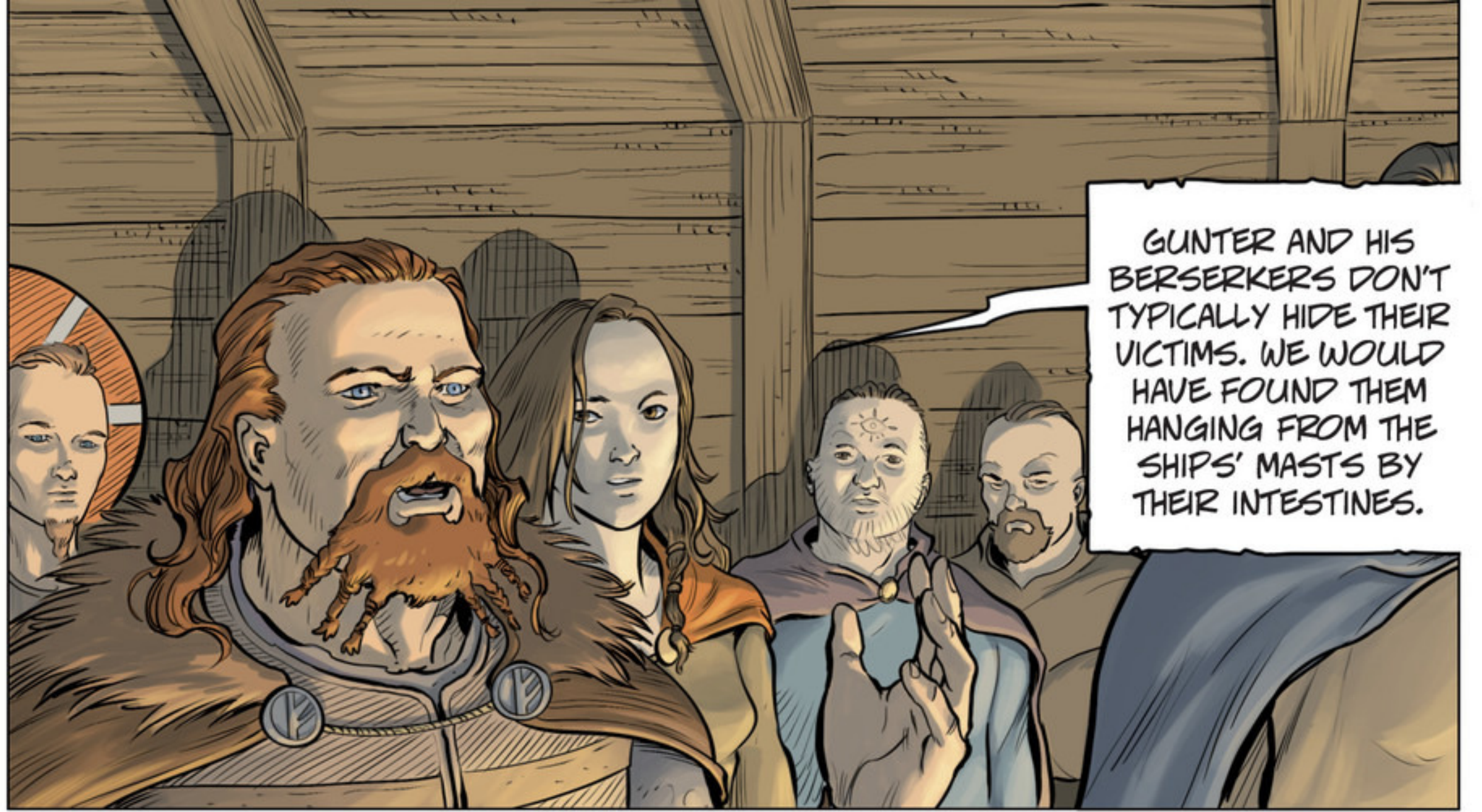
VIDAR'S RIGHT. WE'RE CURSED. I HAVEN'T CAUGHT AS MANY FISH AS I USED TO FOR TWO SEASONS NOW. NJÖRD HAS ABANDONED US.



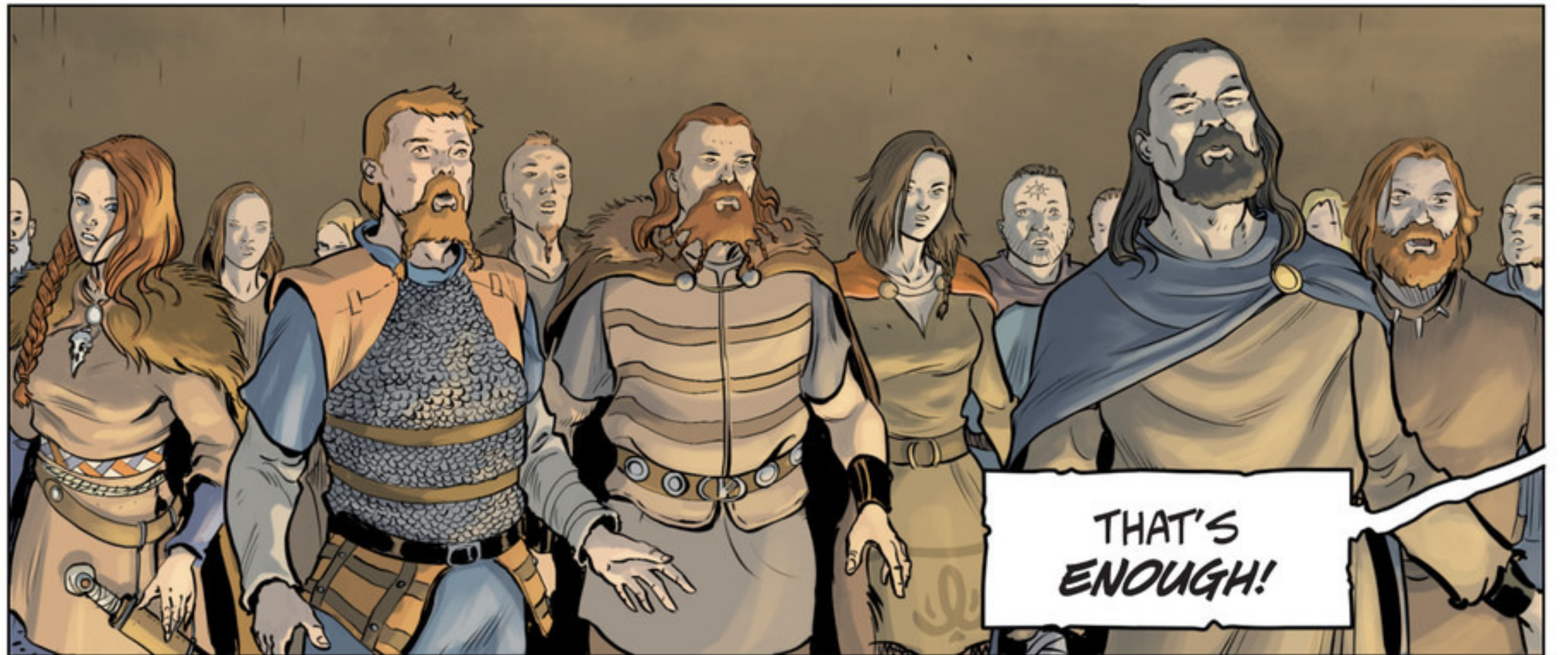
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? IT'S THAT DAMN JARL GUNTER, HE ATTACKED OUR SHIPS. MAY THE VALKYRIES SKIN HIM ALIVE!



THE MEAD HAS
GOTTEN THE BEST
OF YOU, OLAF.



GUNTER AND HIS
BERSERKERS DON'T
TYPICALLY HIDE THEIR
VICTIMS. WE WOULD
HAVE FOUND THEM
HANGING FROM THE
SHIPS' MASTS BY
THEIR INTESTINES.



THAT'S
ENOUGH!



MY HALF-BROTHER WOULDN'T RISK
DELIBERATELY ATTACKING OUR SHIPS.
THAT WOULD MEAN BREAKING THE PROMISE
MADE TO OUR MOTHER ON HER DEATHBED
AND BEING DOOMED TO WANDER THROUGH
THE ICY MISTS OF HEL FOR ALL ETERNITY.



GUNTER COULDN'T CARE LESS.
EVERYBODY KNOWS HE WANTS TO
CAPTURE KÄTTEGLAND AND STATION
HIS FLEET THERE. AND IF HE EVER
ENTERS HEL, THERE'S NO DOUBT
HE'LL BE KING THERE.

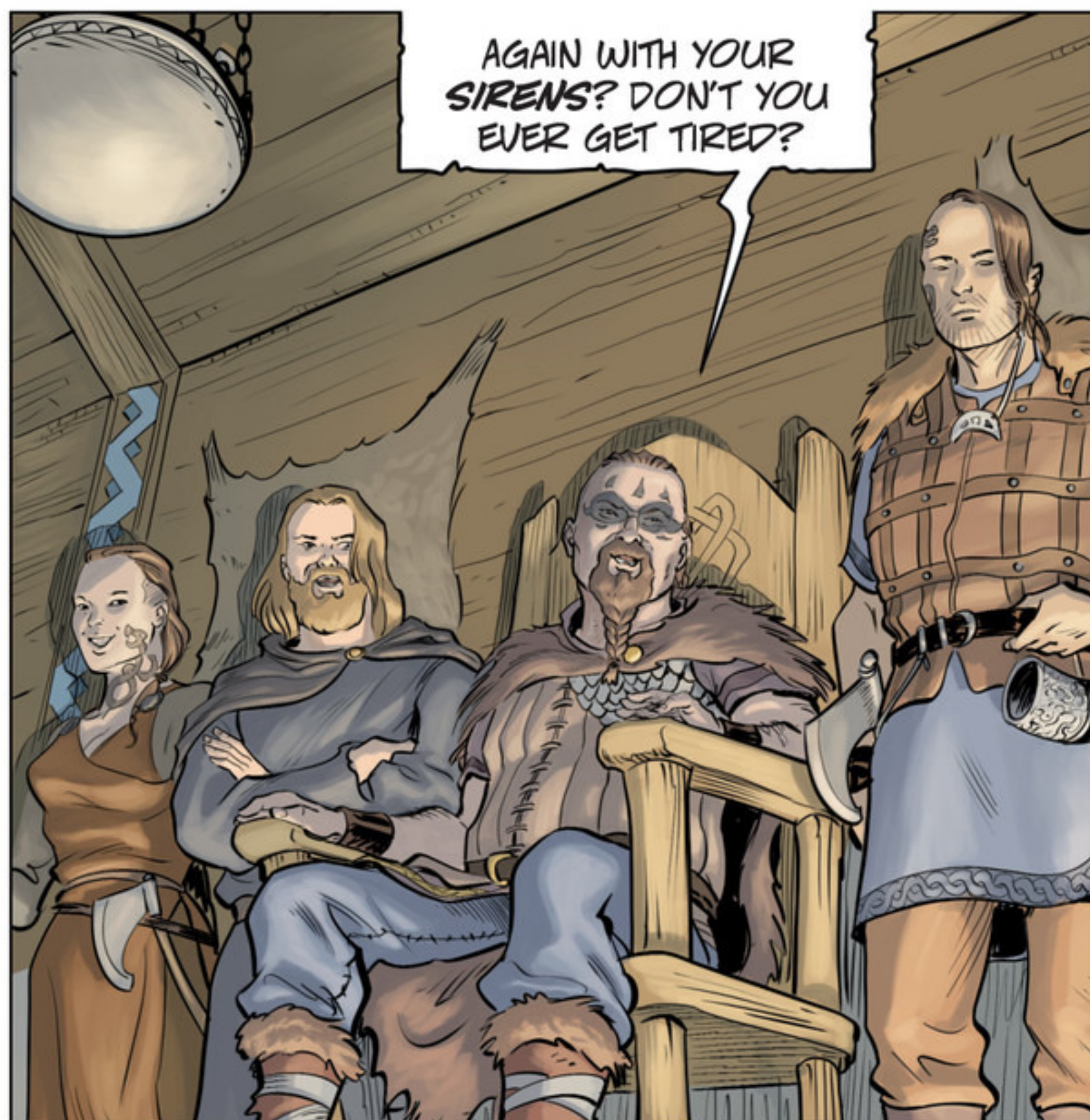


OUR SHIPS WEREN'T
ATTACKED BY MEN.

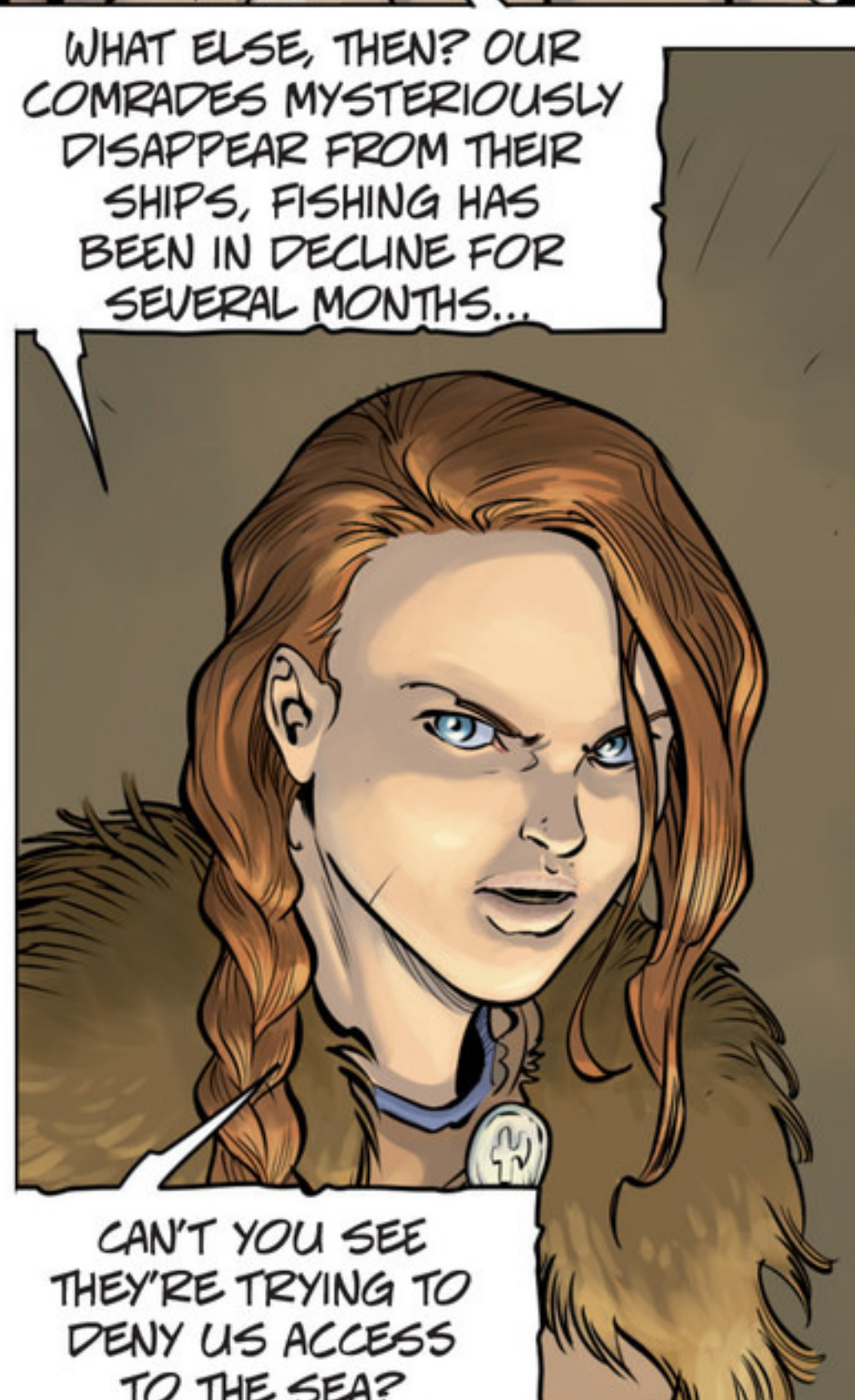


OH? WELL THEN, ENLIGHTEN
US WITH YOUR
KNOWLEDGE, FREYDIS...

THERE'S ONLY
ONE POSSIBLE
EXPLANATION:
HAVFRUES.



AGAIN WITH YOUR
SIRENS? DON'T YOU
EVER GET TIRED?



WHAT ELSE, THEN? OUR
COMRADES MYSTERIOUSLY
DISAPPEAR FROM THEIR
SHIPS, FISHING HAS
BEEN IN DECLINE FOR
SEVERAL MONTHS...

CAN'T YOU SEE
THEY'RE TRYING TO
DENY US ACCESS
TO THE SEA?



IF OUR COMRADES' BODIES HAVE DISAPPEARED, IT'S BECAUSE THE SIRENS TOOK THEM DOWN TO THE ABYSS TO FEED THEIR MEN, THE TRITONS.



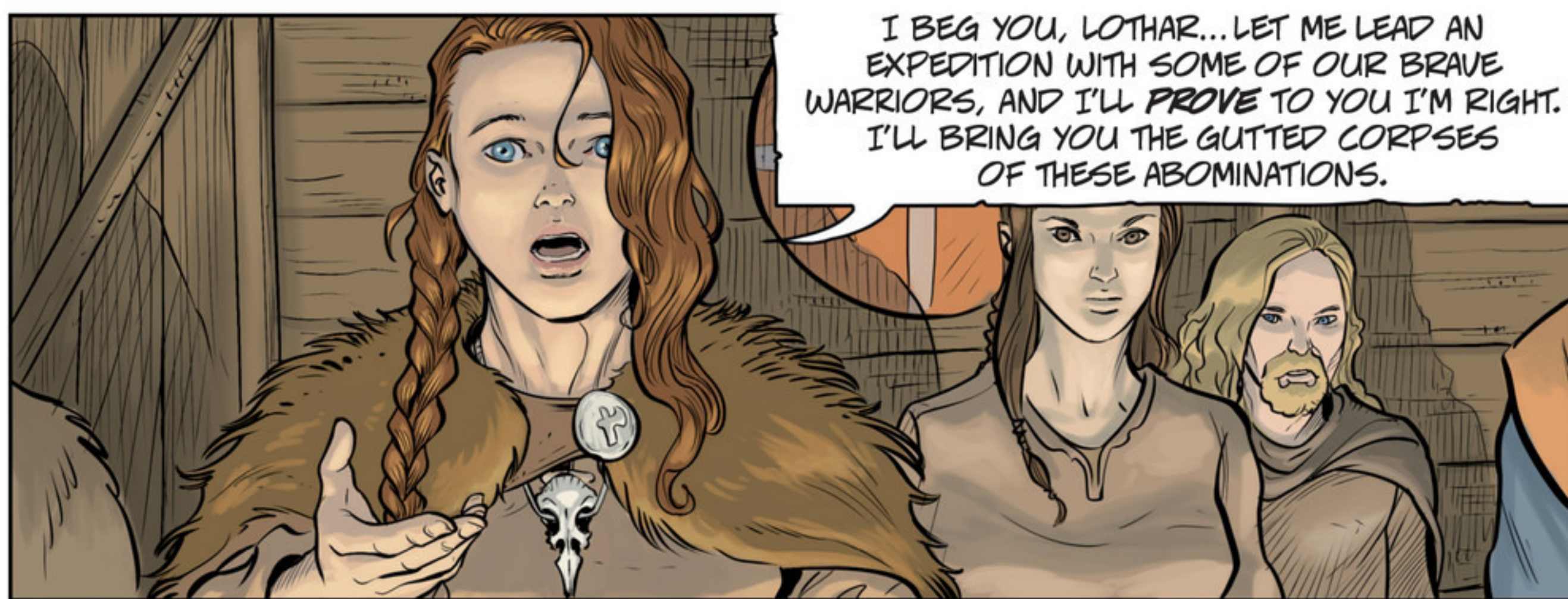
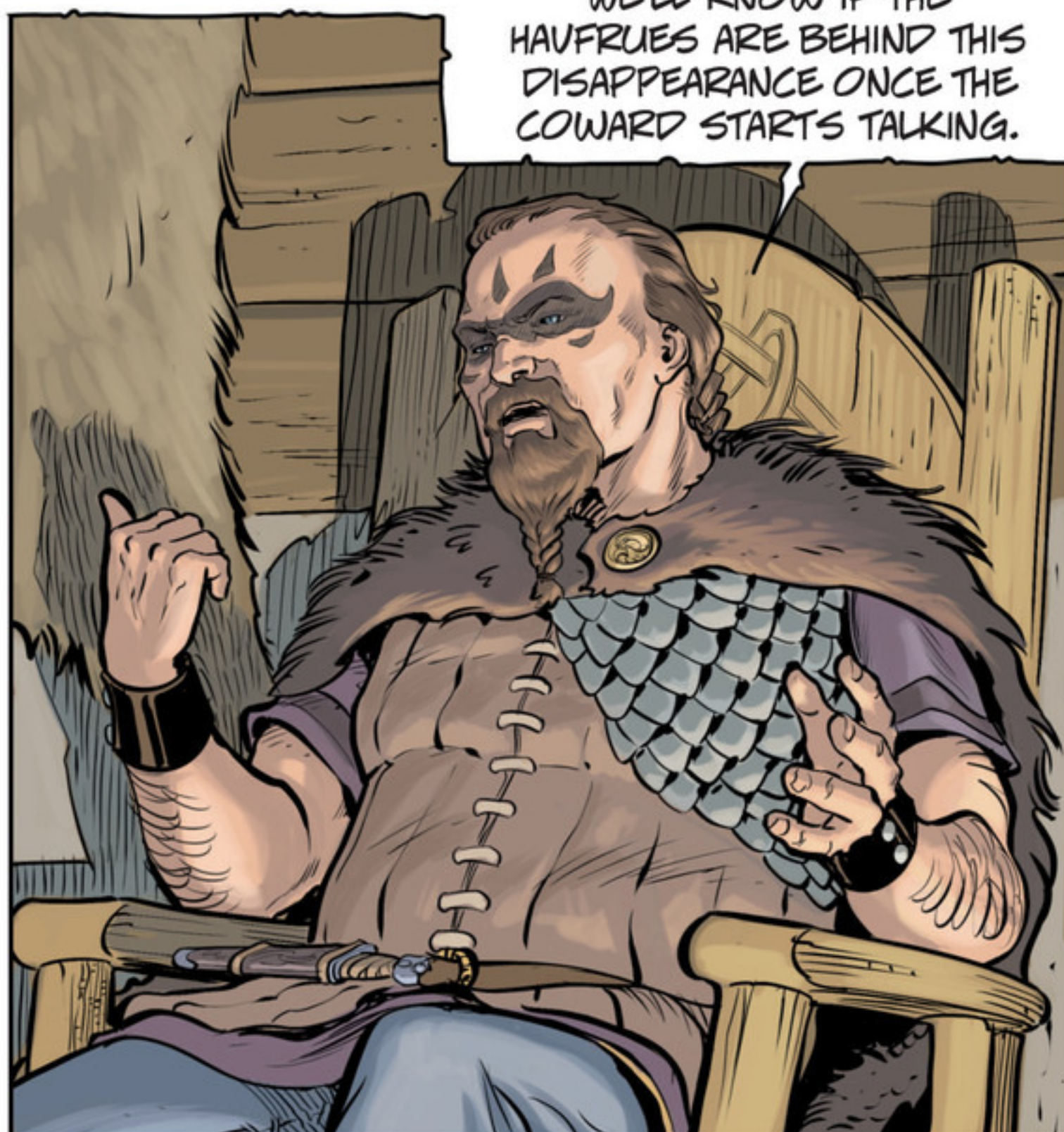
ARNVALD... ALL OUR COMRADES... E-EATEN?

FREYDIS IS RIGHT, THAT'S WHAT THE HAFVRUES DO.

IF THEY TOOK BIÖRN, THE TRITONS' GUTS WILL BE ON FIRE!

SILENCE. RODRIK IS THE EXPEDITION'S ONLY SURVIVOR. ONLY HE CAN TELL US WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.

WE'LL KNOW IF THE HAFVRUES ARE BEHIND THIS DISAPPEARANCE ONCE THE COWARD STARTS TALKING.

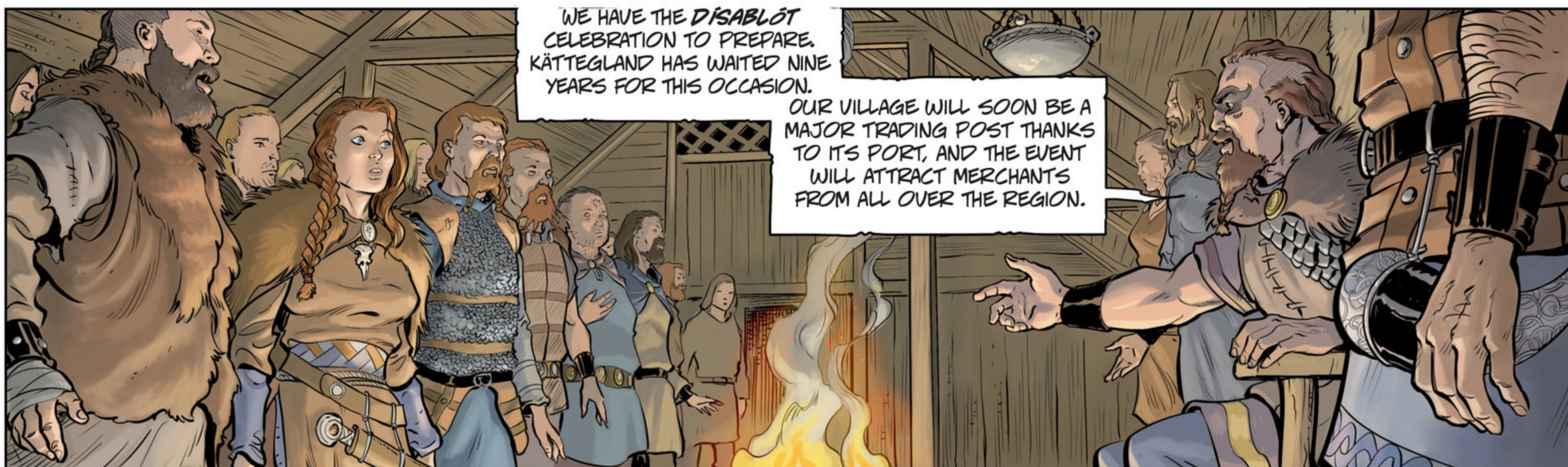


I BEG YOU, LOTHAR... LET ME LEAD AN EXPEDITION WITH SOME OF OUR BRAVE WARRIORS, AND I'LL **PROVE** TO YOU I'M RIGHT. I'LL BRING YOU THE GUTTED CORPSES OF THESE ABOMINATIONS.



OUR MEN HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO!

EVEN IF THE SIRENS ARE RESPONSIBLE, DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S THE RIGHT TIME TO DECLARE WAR ON THESE SEA MONSTERS?



WE HAVE THE **DISABLOT** CELEBRATION TO PREPARE. KÄTTEGLAND HAS WAITED NINE YEARS FOR THIS OCCASION.

OUR VILLAGE WILL SOON BE A MAJOR TRADING POST THANKS TO ITS PORT, AND THE EVENT WILL ATTRACT MERCHANTS FROM ALL OVER THE REGION.



I'M CERTAIN THAT RITUAL SACRIFICES WILL EARN US DISIR'S BLESSING ONCE AGAIN AND PUT AN END TO THE CURSE THAT HAS BEFALLEN OUR COMMUNITY.

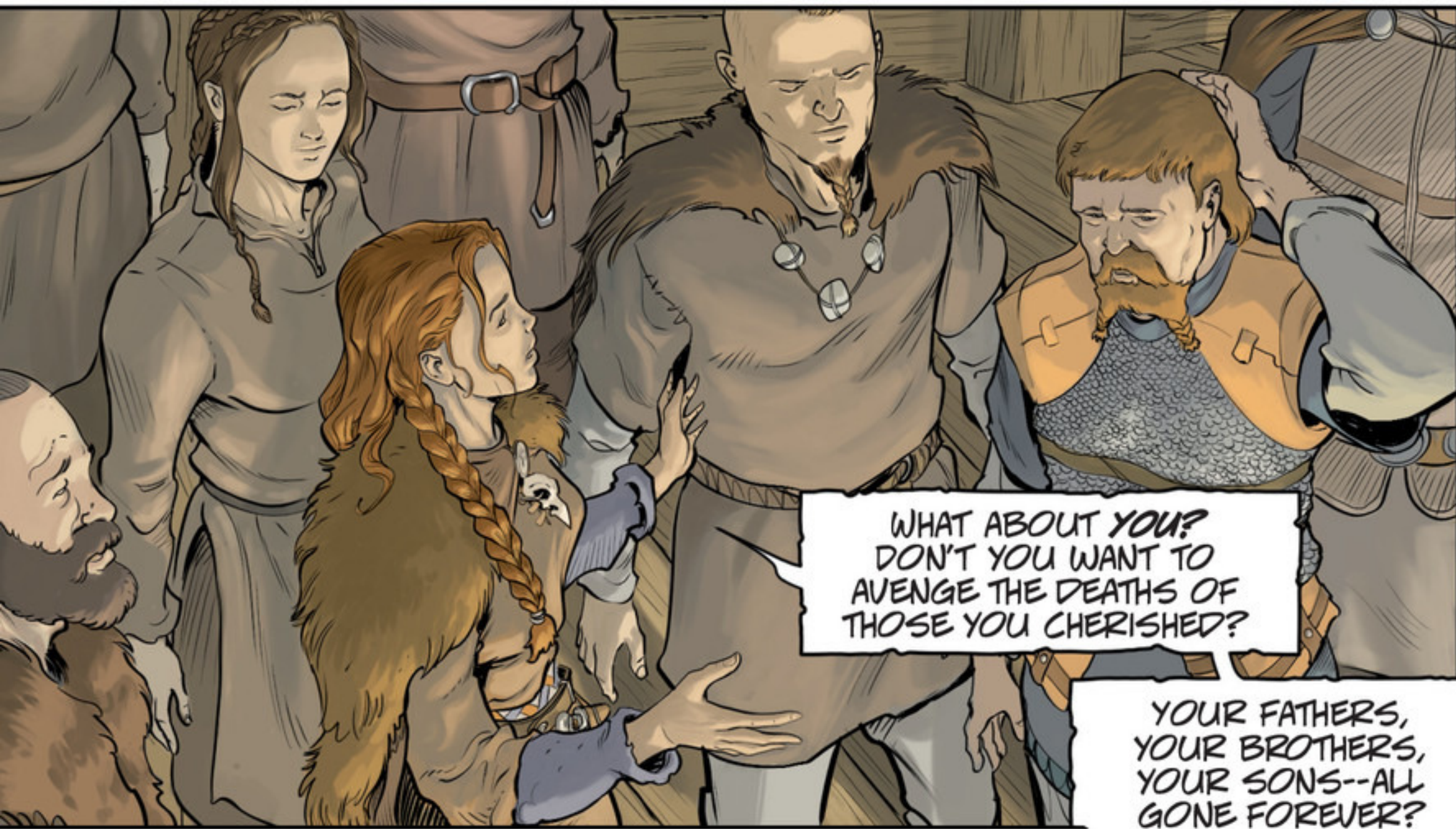
IF, OF COURSE, THIS IS INDEED A CURSE...

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, LOTHAR, YOU ARE NEGLECTING THE VIRTUES OF THE ASATRU TO WHICH YOU HAVE PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE AS JARL...

... THAT IS, THE BRAVERY WE ARE REQUIRED TO SHOW EVERY DAY, THE TRUTH WITHOUT WHICH WE ARE BLIND, THE HONOR THAT FORGES RESPECT AND--



ENOUGH! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, GIVING ME A LESSON?



WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DON'T YOU WANT TO
AVENGE THE DEATHS OF
THOSE YOU CHERISHED?

YOUR FATHERS,
YOUR BROTHERS,
YOUR SONS--ALL
GONE FOREVER?



WHAT IF I GO WITH SVEIN, JUST THE TWO
OF US? WE'RE THE BEST FIGHTERS IN
THE VILLAGE. THE TWO OF US CAN KILL
ENOUGH HAVFRUES TO GET REVENGE.

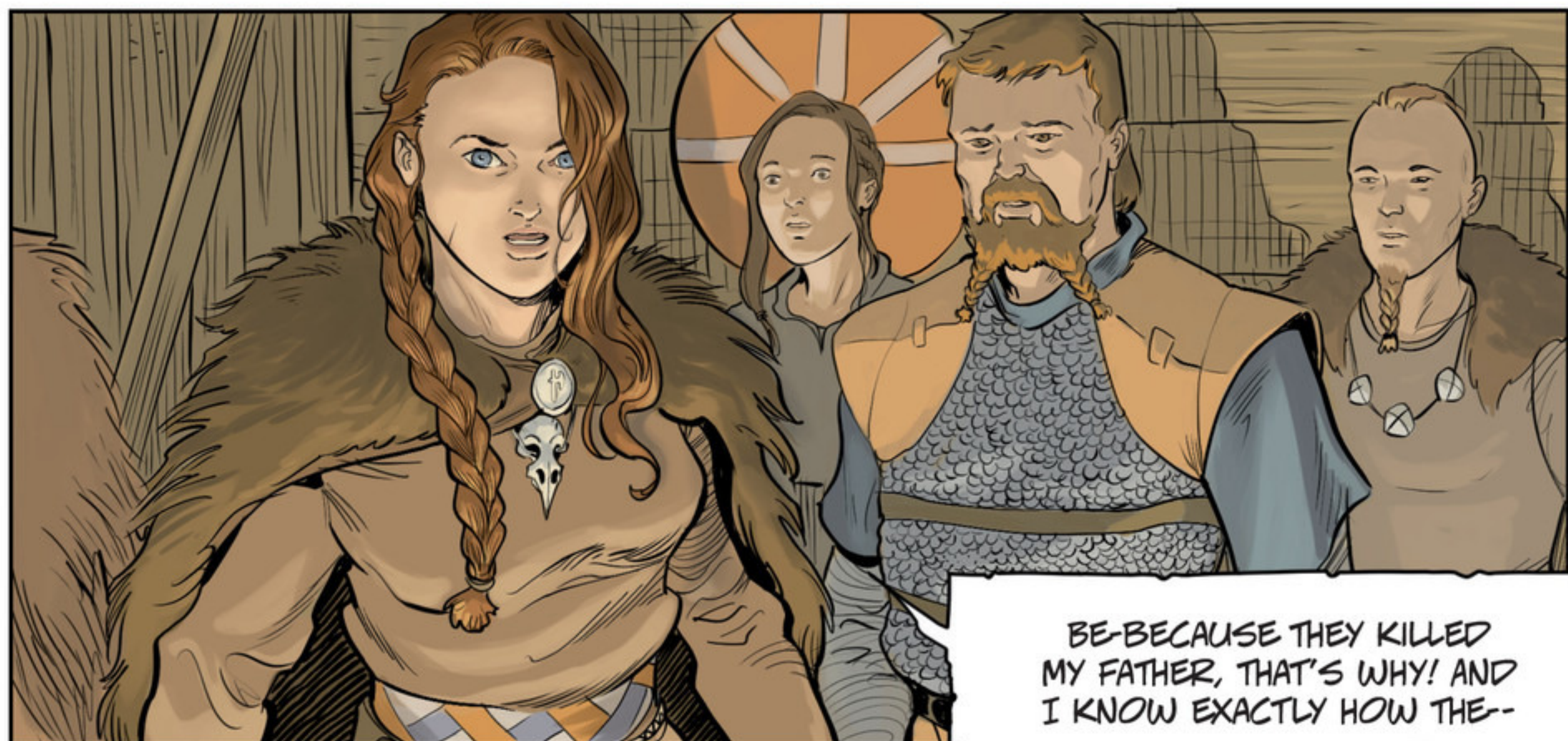


I'M SORRY, FREYDIS, BUT
I HAVE TO SIT THIS ONE
OUT. MY FATHER'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE BEING IMPULSIVE
AND IRRATIONAL.

YOU...YOU'RE
JUST A COWARD!



AND YOU'RE CRAZY! WHY DO
YOU *INSIST* ON GOING TO
WAR WITH THE HAVFRUES?



BE-BECAUSE THEY KILLED
MY FATHER, THAT'S WHY! AND
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW THE--



BE QUIET, FREYDIS! YOUR
FATHER RESTS IN VALHALLA. DO
NOT INVOKe HIS MEMORY IN VAIN.

YOU SEE, EVEN
YOUR MOTHER'S
ASKING YOU TO STOP
THIS NONSENSE.



EX-EXCUSE ME,
MOTHER...



...BUT
HOW CAN
I FORGET?

HEY!

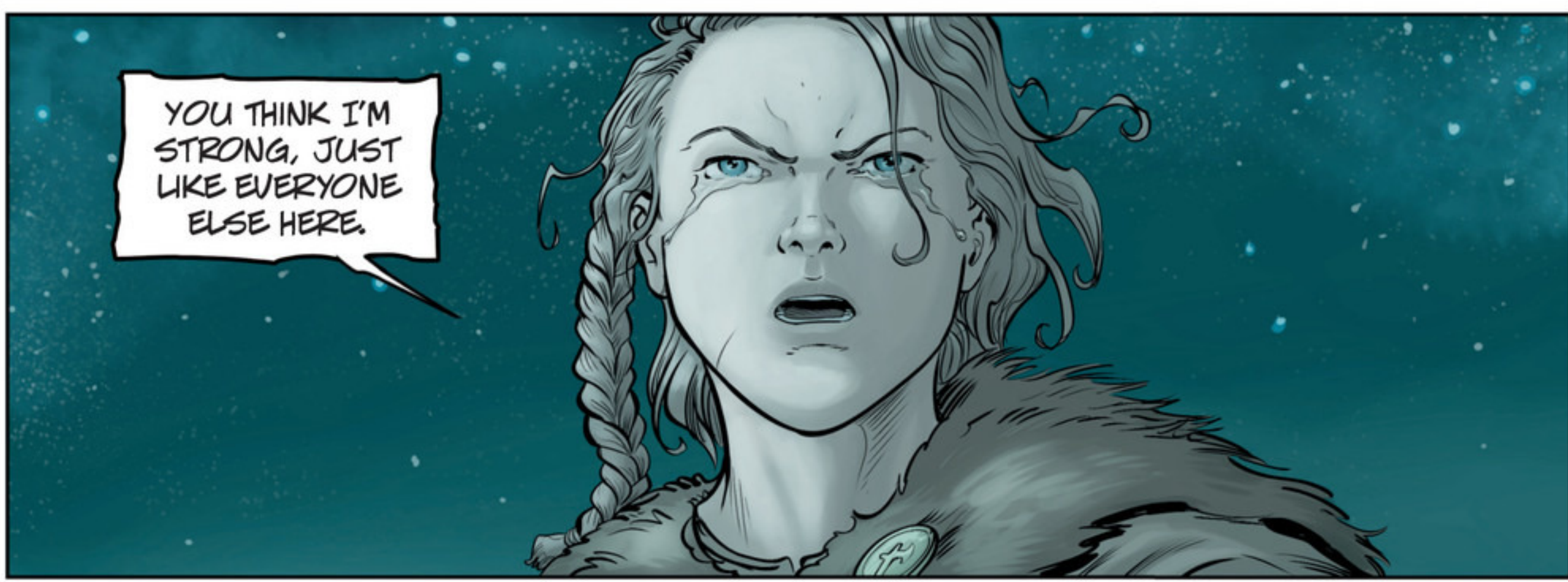
FREYDIS...



HOW CAN I FORGET
A DAY THAT HAS NEVER
STOPPED HAUNTING ME?



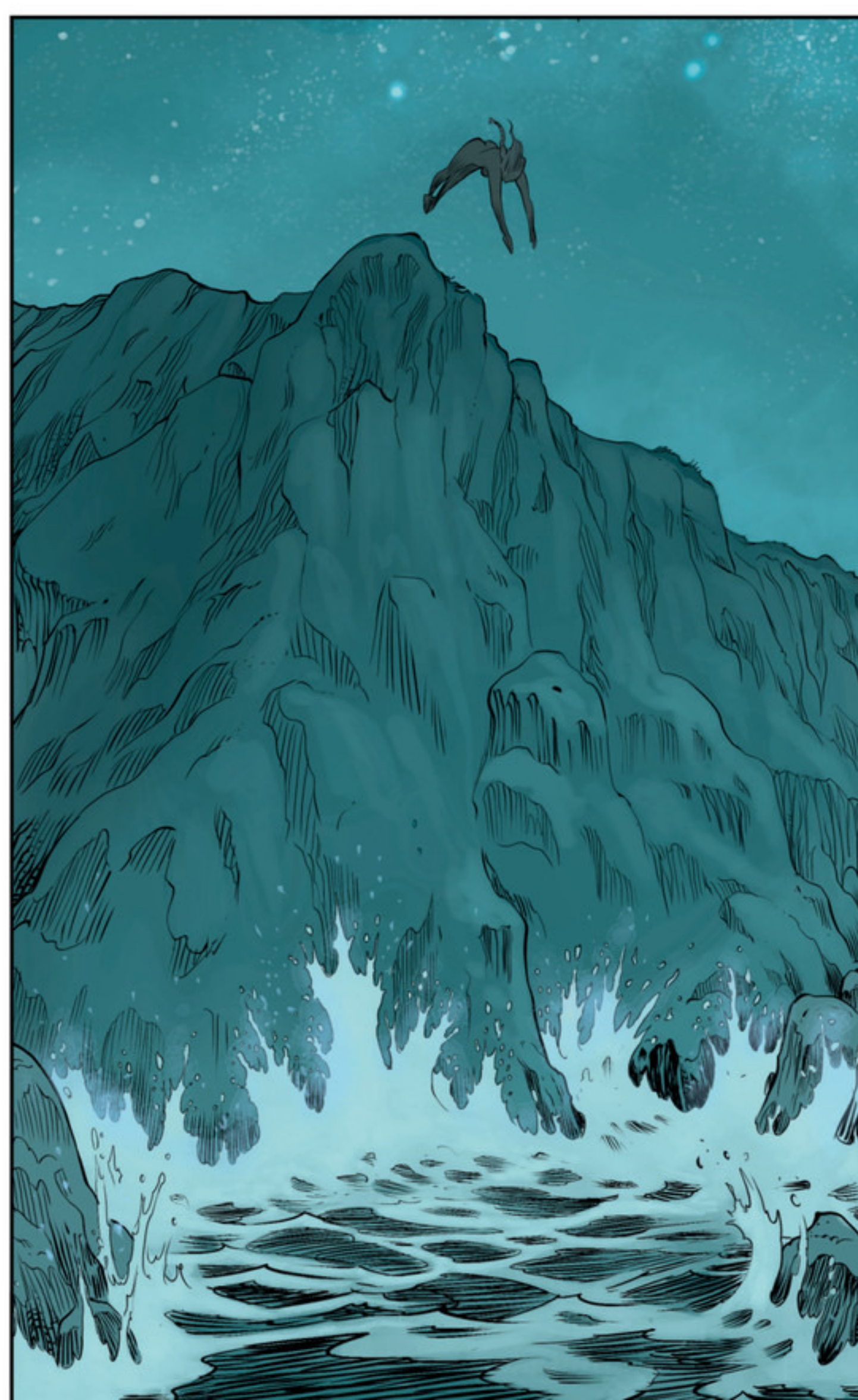
DO YOU THINK IT'S *EASY*
TO DISMISS SOMETHING
SO HORRIBLE?

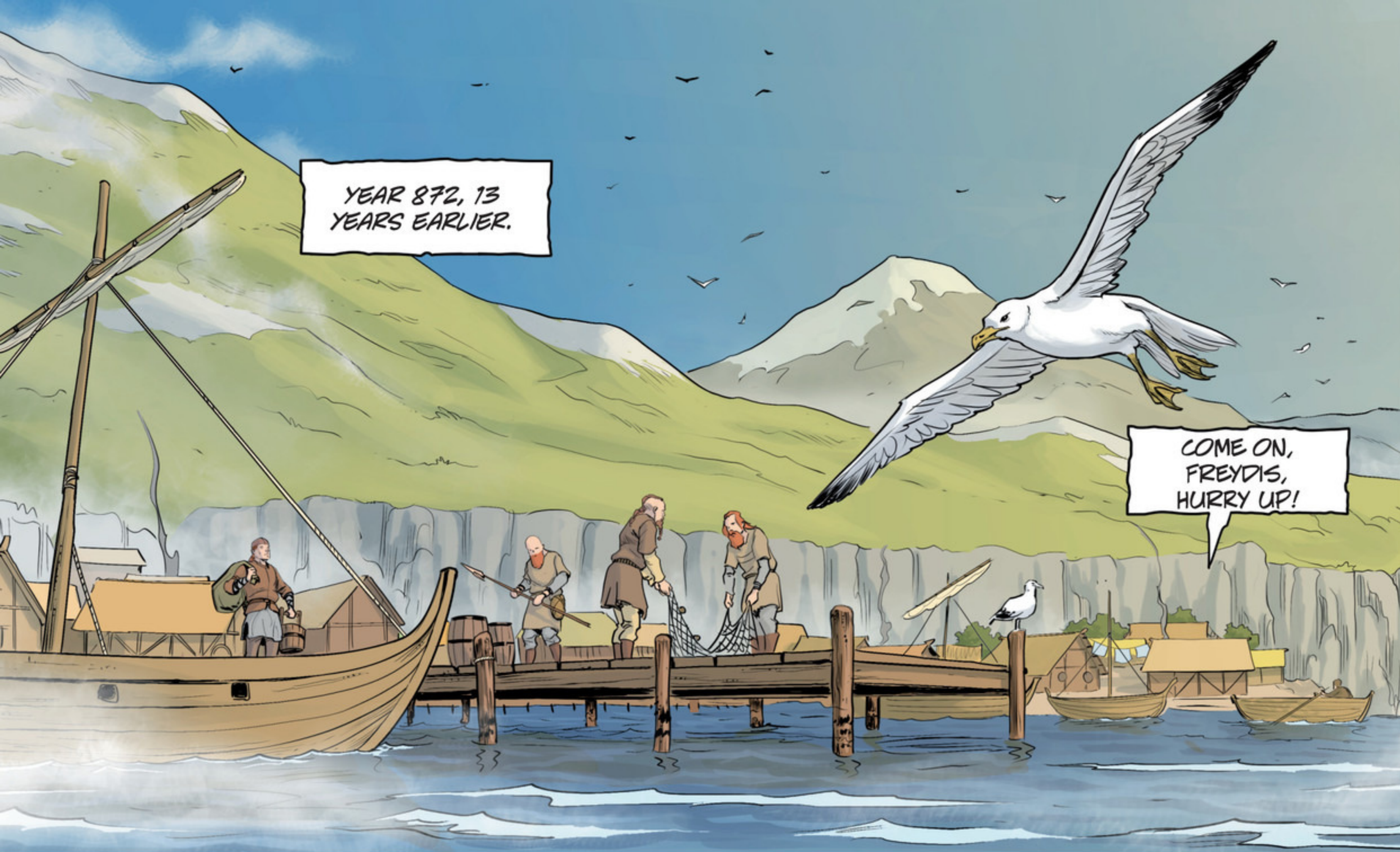


YOU THINK I'M
STRONG, JUST
LIKE EVERYONE
ELSE HERE.



BUT YOU'RE *WRONG*.
THE TRUTH IS, I CRY
IN SECRET.



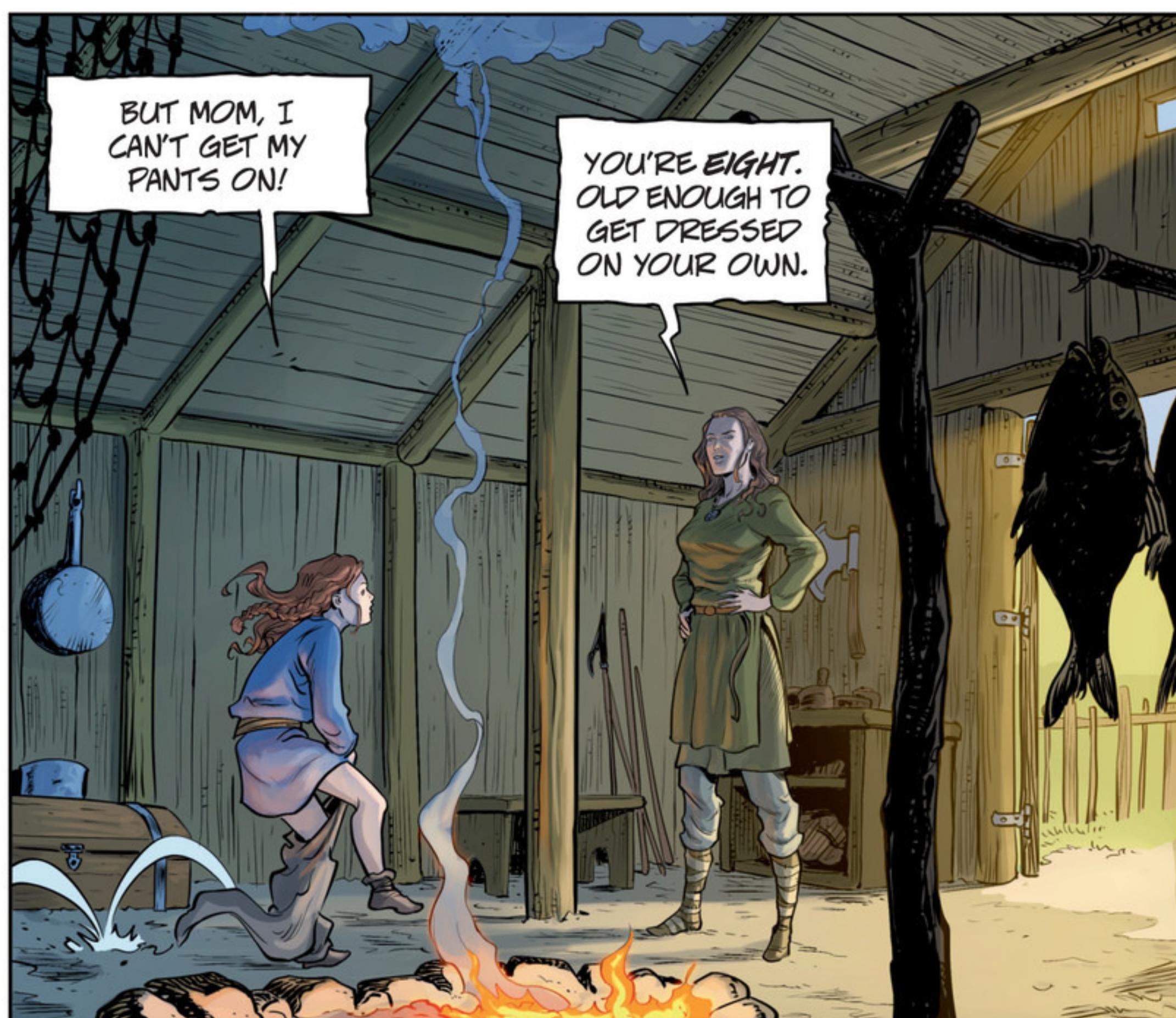


YEAR 872, 13 YEARS EARLIER.

COME ON, FREYDIS, HURRY UP!



YOUR FATHER ISN'T GOING TO WAIT FOREVER. NEITHER WILL THE FISH, FOR THAT MATTER.



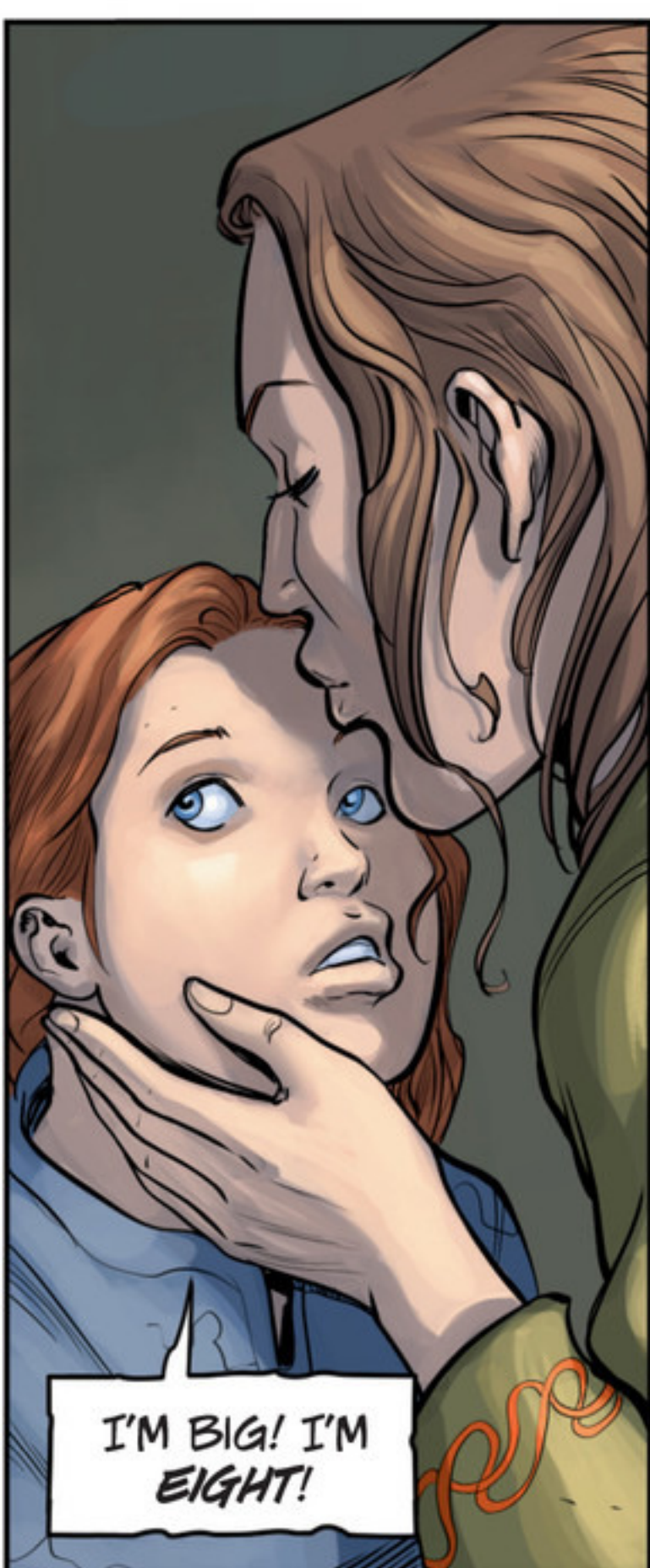
BUT MOM, I CAN'T GET MY PANTS ON!

YOU'RE EIGHT. OLD ENOUGH TO GET DRESSED ON YOUR OWN.

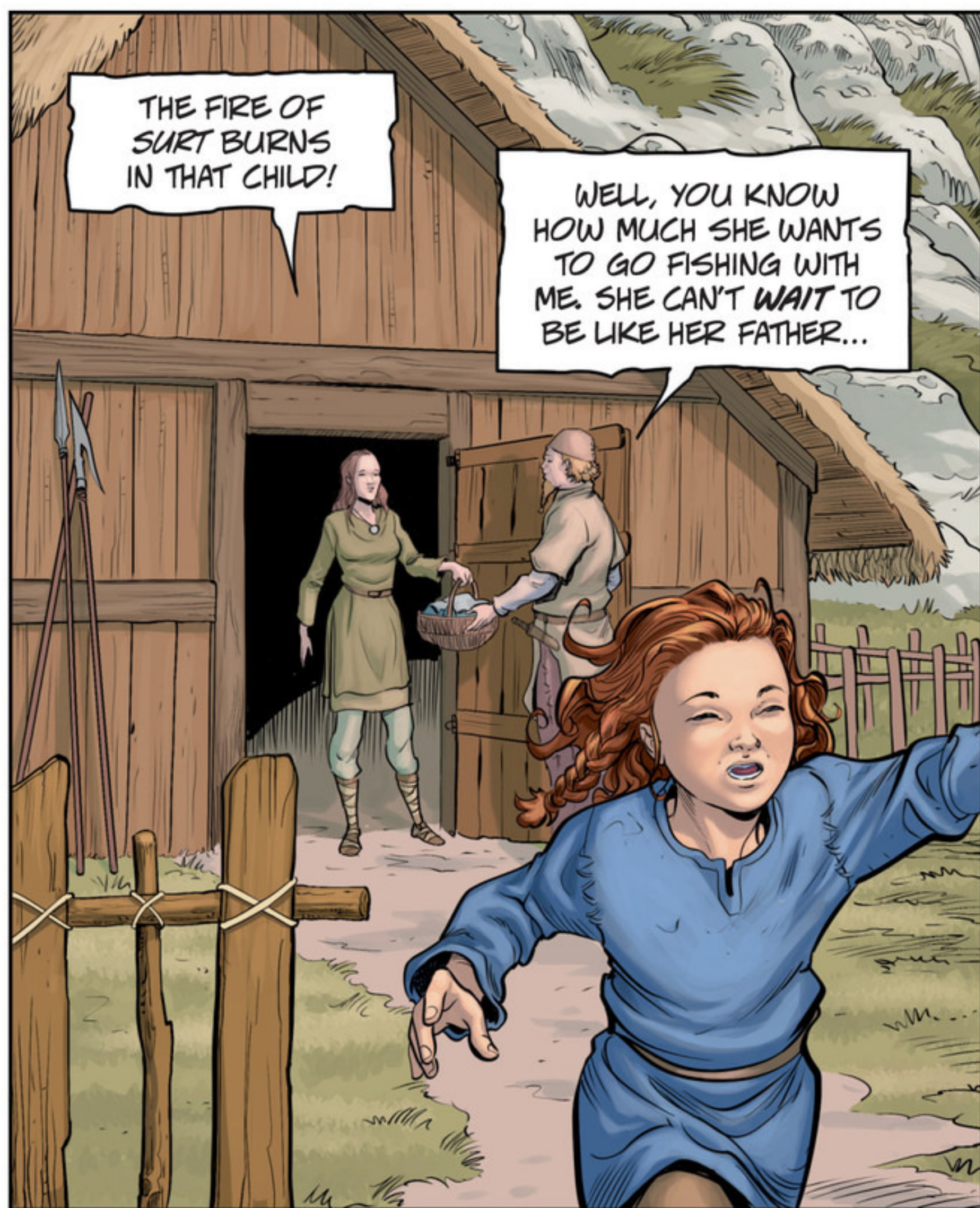


LOOK AT YOU...

BE SURE TO LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER. FISHING IN OPEN SEA CAN BE DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW THAT.



I'M BIG! I'M EIGHT!



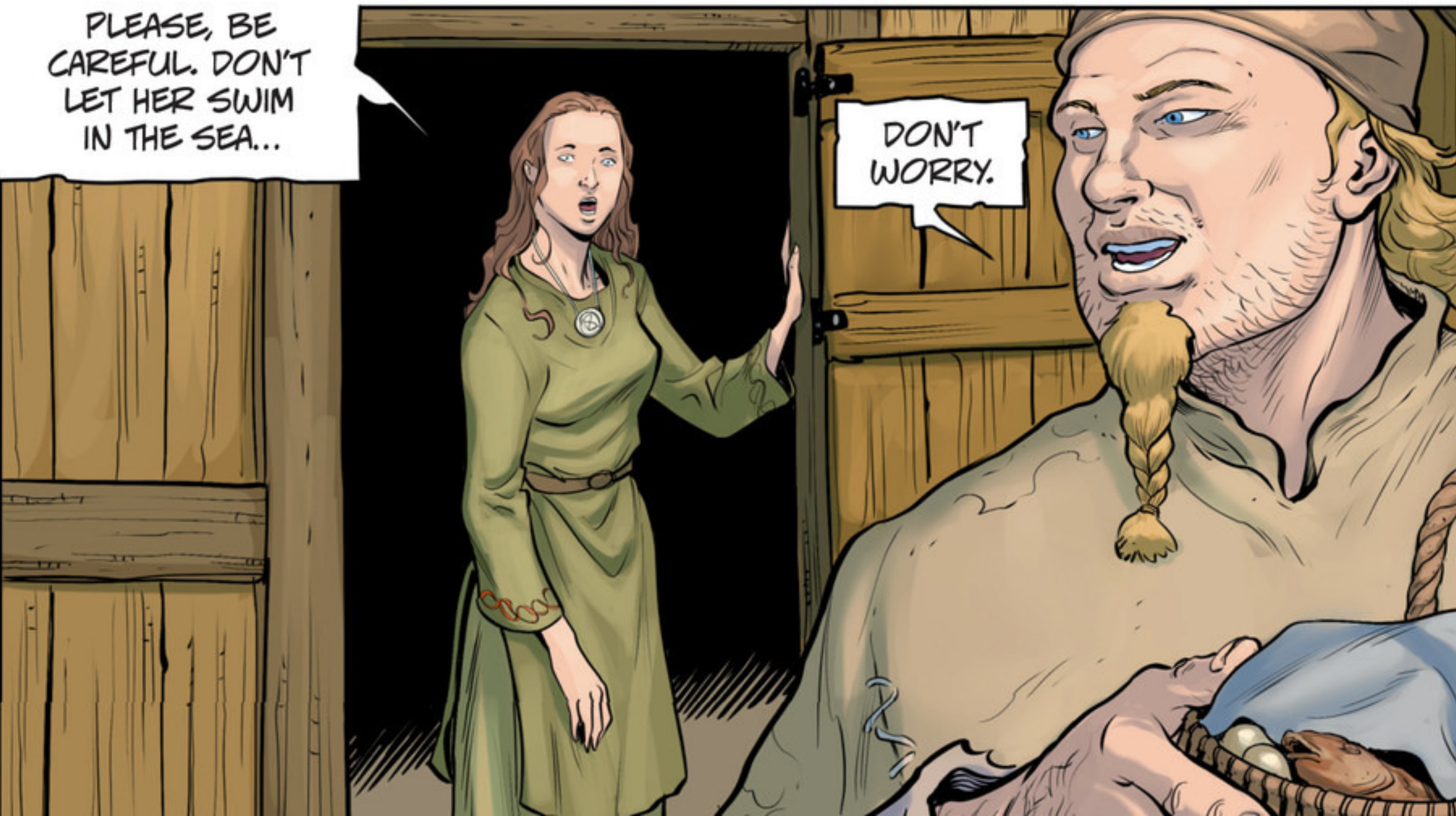
THE FIRE OF SURT BURNS IN THAT CHILD!

WELL, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SHE WANTS TO GO FISHING WITH ME. SHE CAN'T WAIT TO BE LIKE HER FATHER...



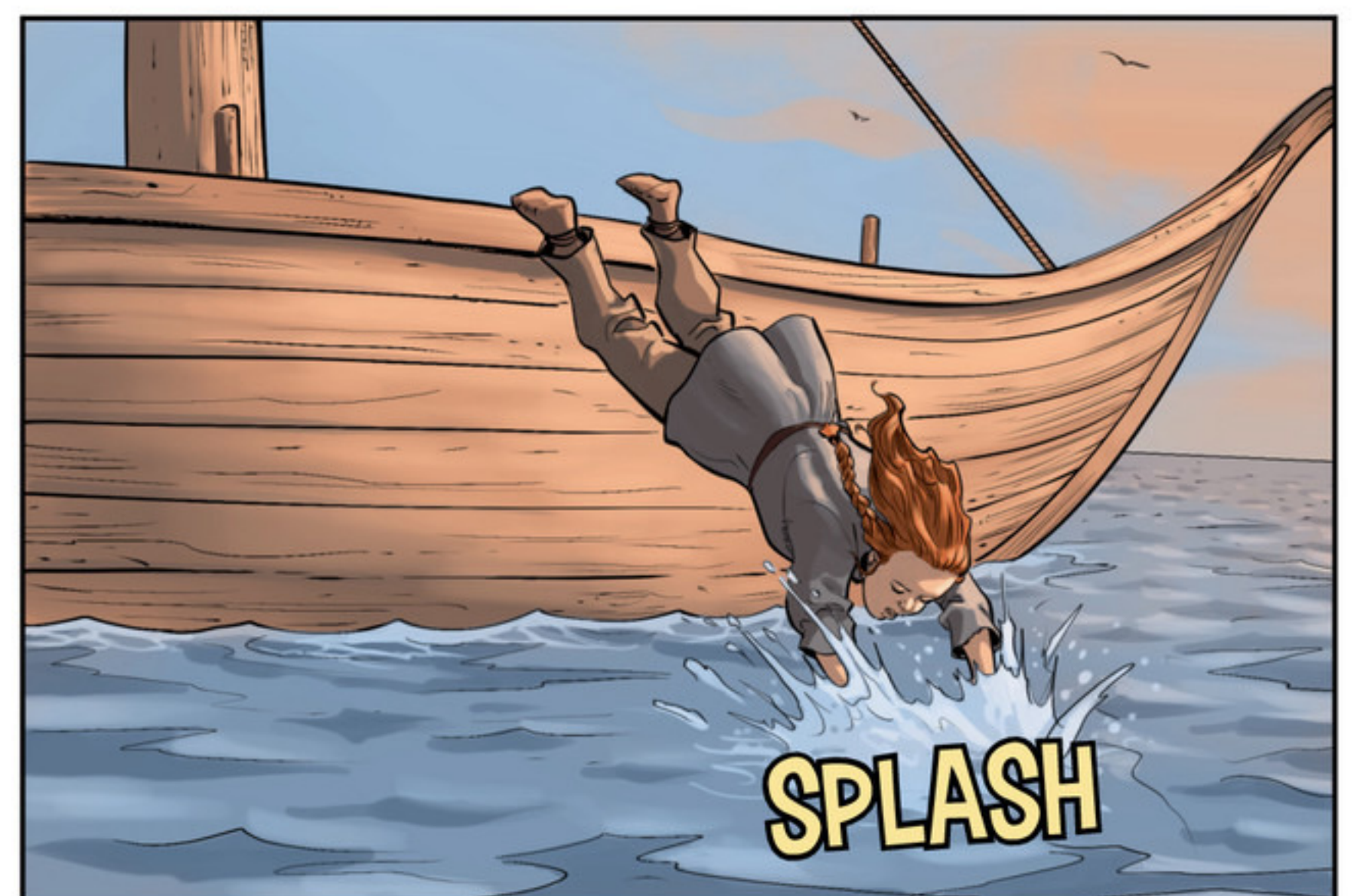
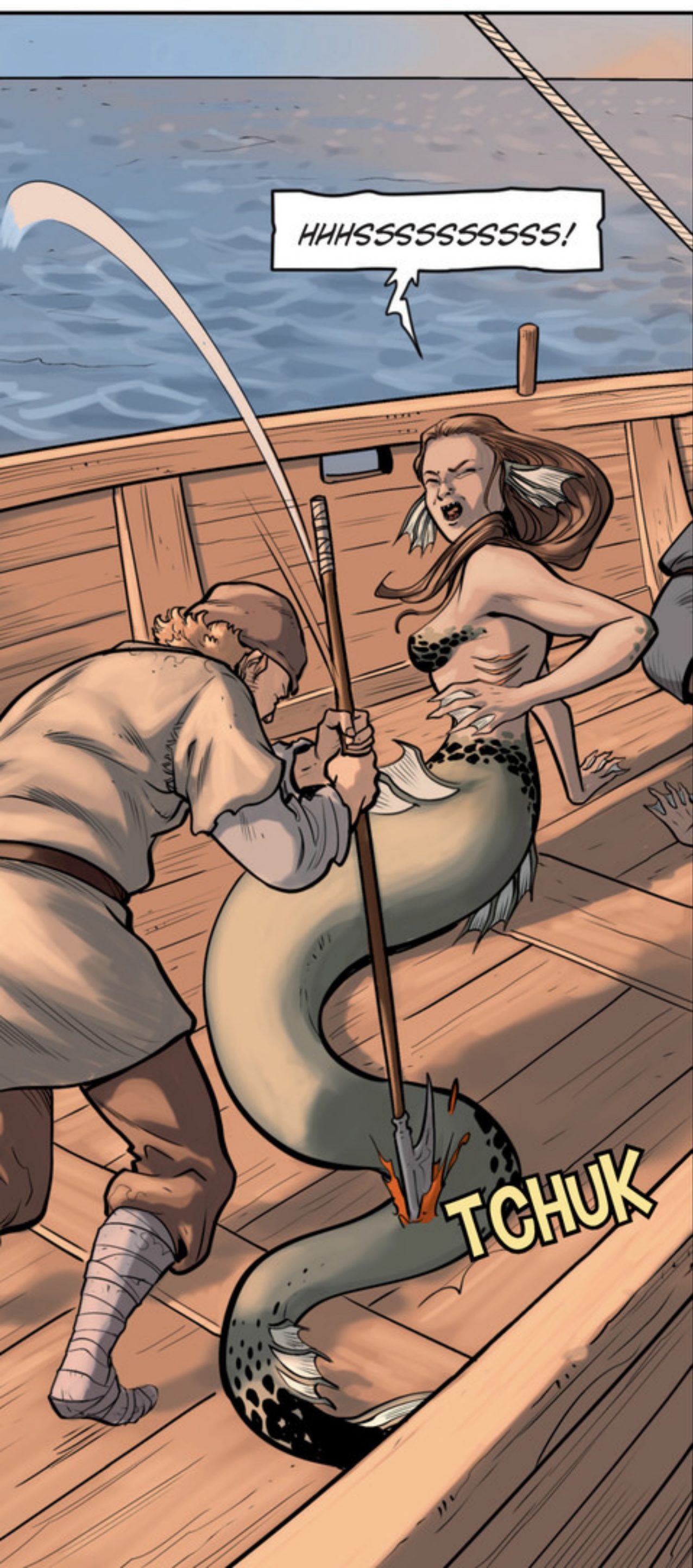
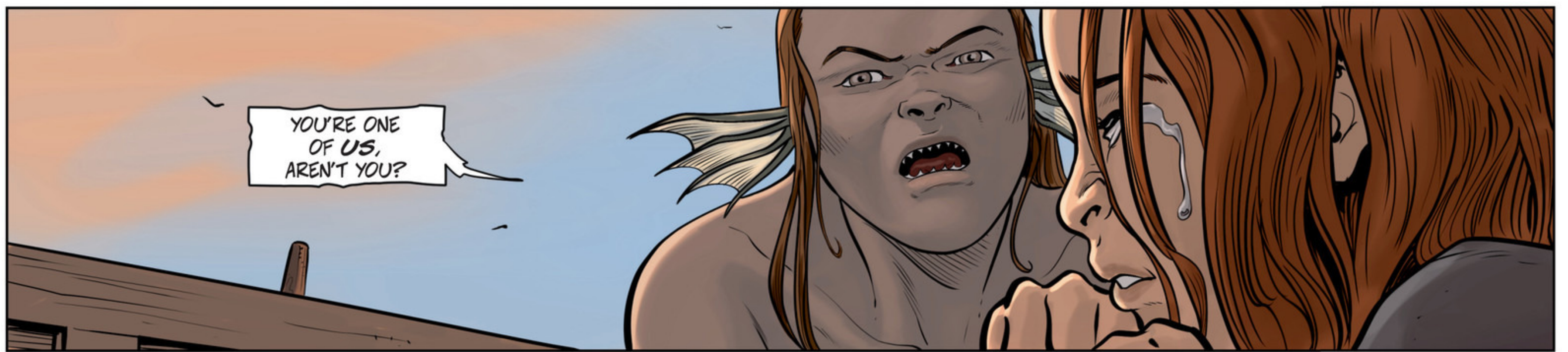
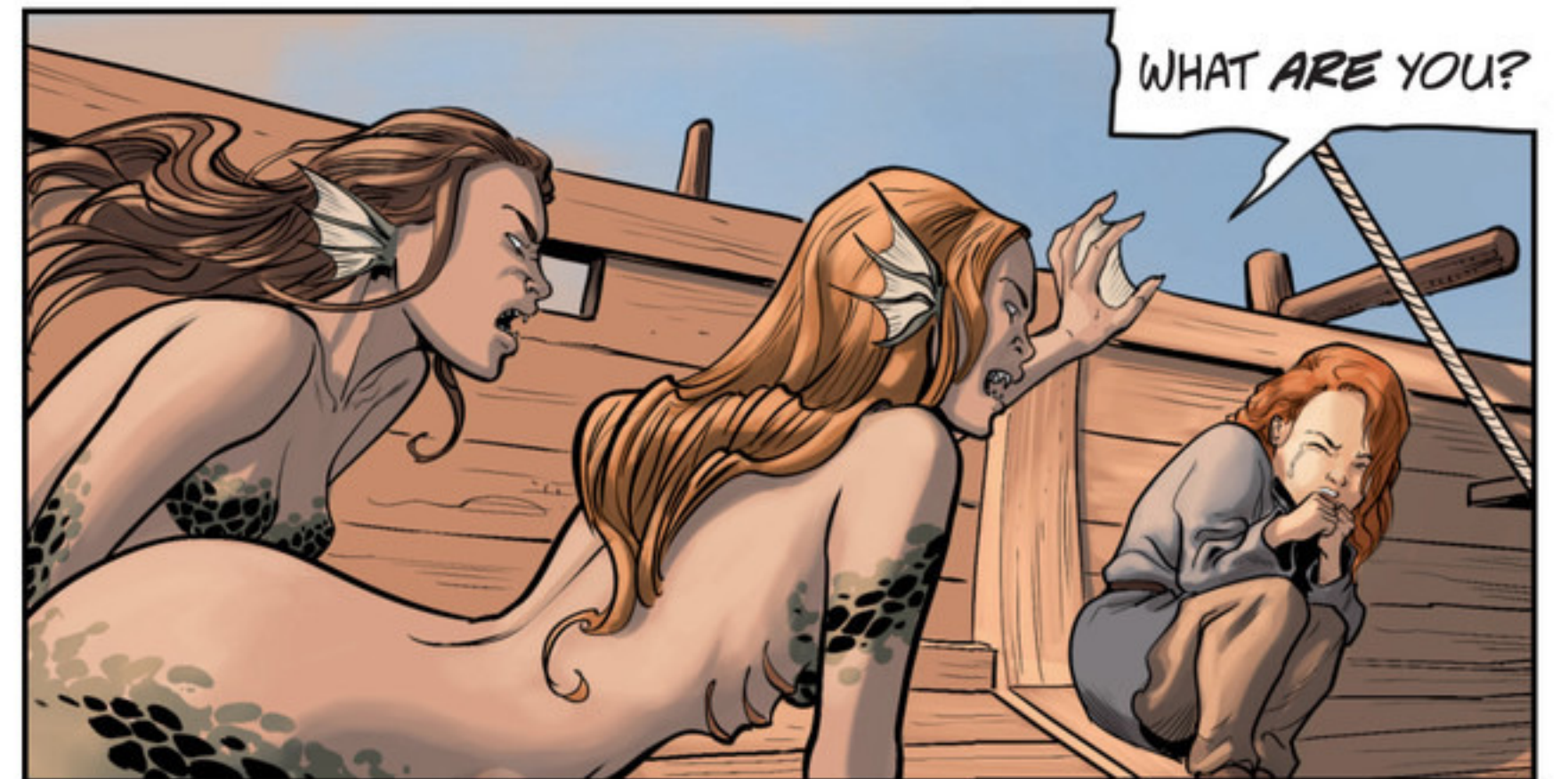
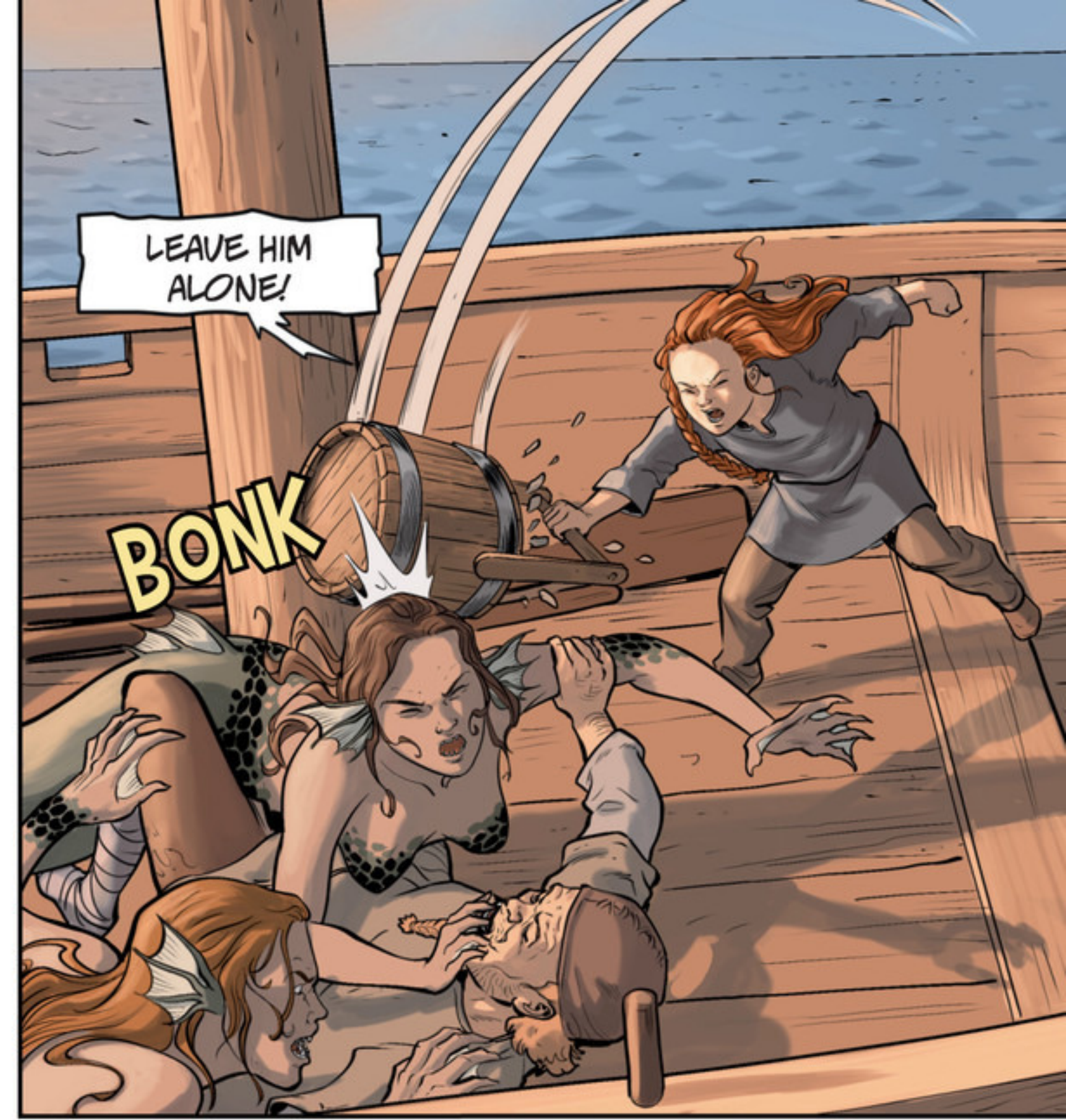
SHE ISN'T A BOY, REIDOLF. EVEN IF SHE ACTS LIKE ONE.

I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL, OLEIV. BUT THE GODS HAVE GIFTED US WITH HER AFTER TAKING THREE OF OUR SONS. SHE'S ALL WE HAVE LEFT, AND SHE HAS TO LEARN TO HELP ME.



PLEASE, BE CAREFUL. DON'T LET HER SWIM IN THE SEA...

DON'T WORRY.





M-MOMMY!
MOMMY!

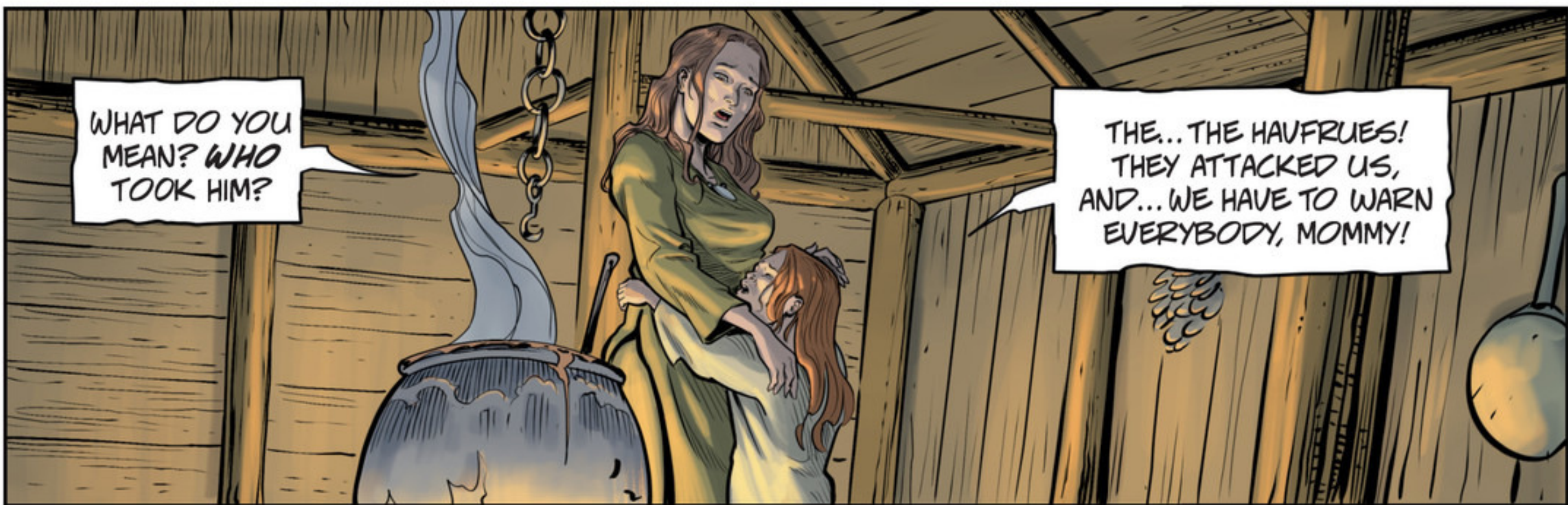


MOMMY!



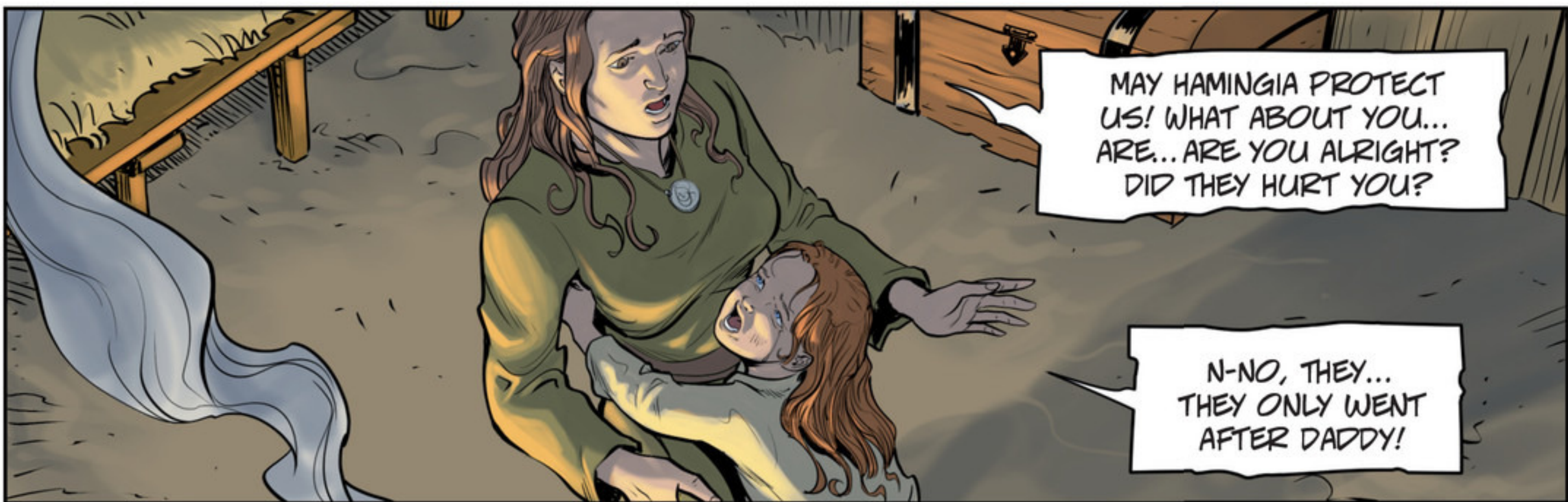
FREYDIS?
W-WHAT'S GOING
ON? WHERE'S
YOUR FATHER?

THEY... THEY TOOK HIM,
MOMMY. THEY TOOK
HIM WITH THEM!



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN? WHO
TOOK HIM?

THE... THE HAVFRUES!
THEY ATTACKED US,
AND... WE HAVE TO WARN
EVERYBODY, MOMMY!



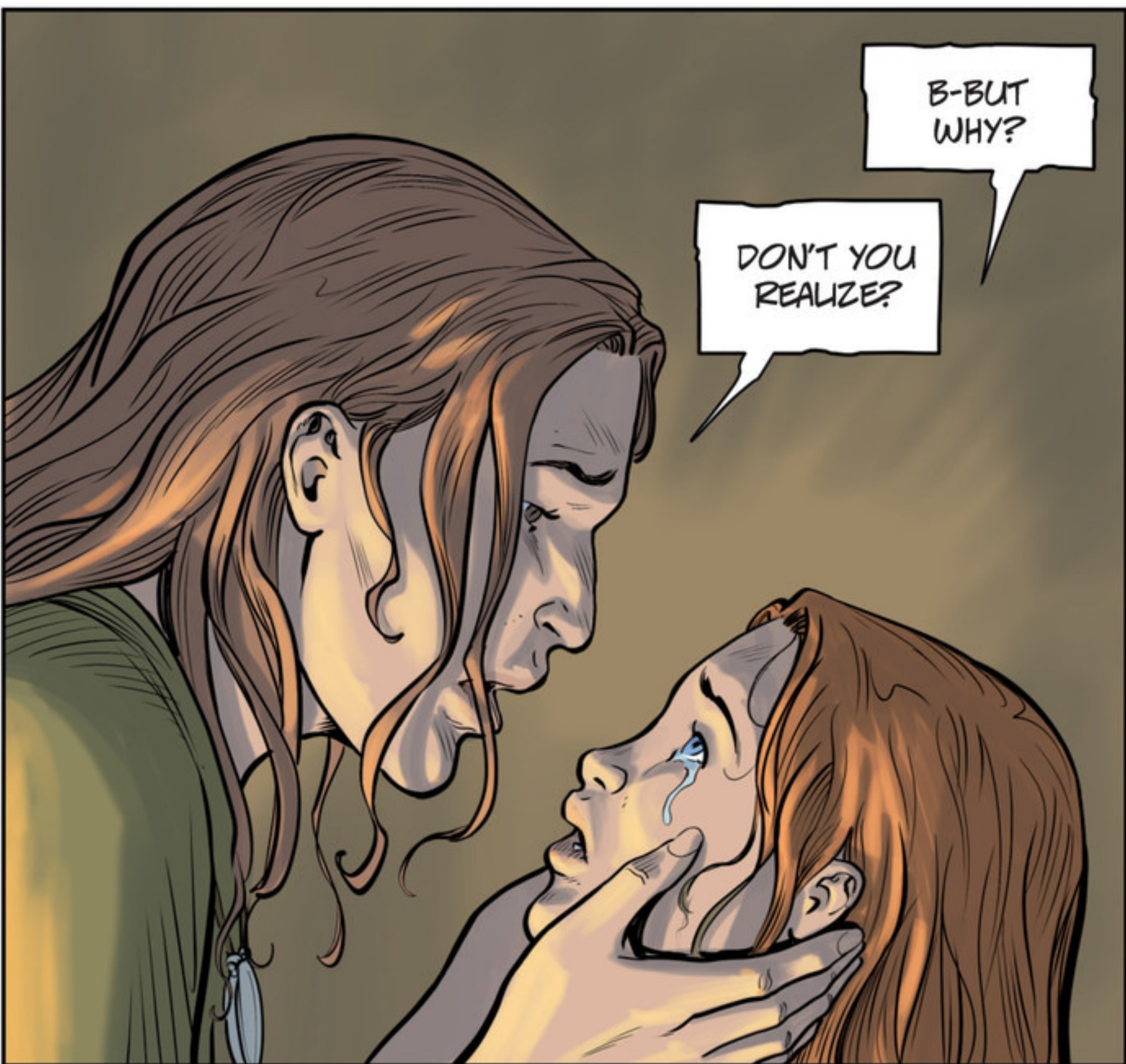
MAY HAMINGIA PROTECT
US! WHAT ABOUT YOU...
ARE... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
DID THEY HURT YOU?

N-NO, THEY...
THEY ONLY WENT
AFTER DADDY!



WE HAVE TO TELL THE
OTHERS! WE HAVE TO
GO KILL THEM!

WE... WE
CAN'T, DEAR...



B-BUT
WHY?

DON'T YOU
REALIZE?



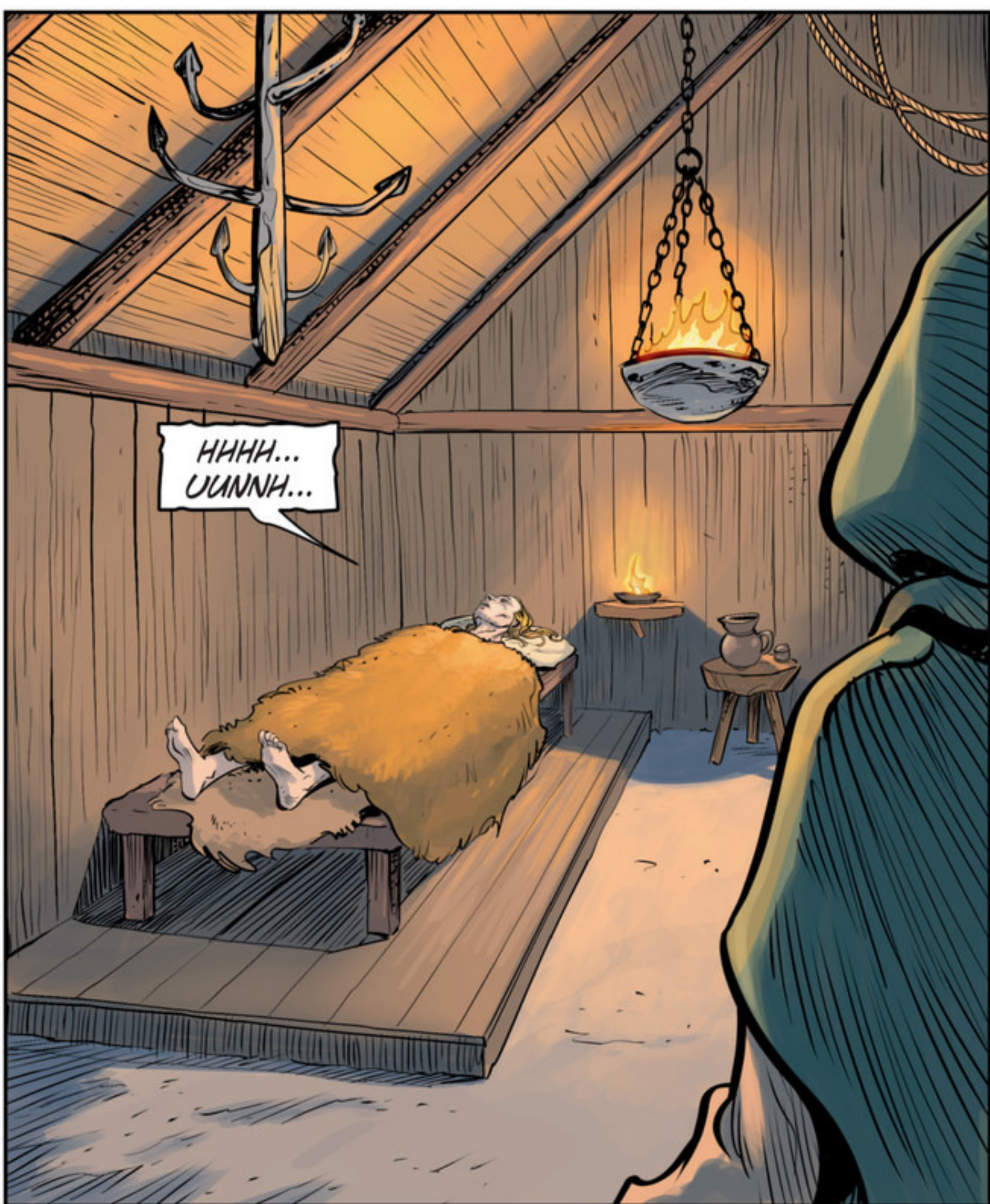
BE-BECAUSE OF
OUR SECRET.

WE CAN'T!

WE CAN'T!



YEAR 885.



HHHH...
UUNNH...



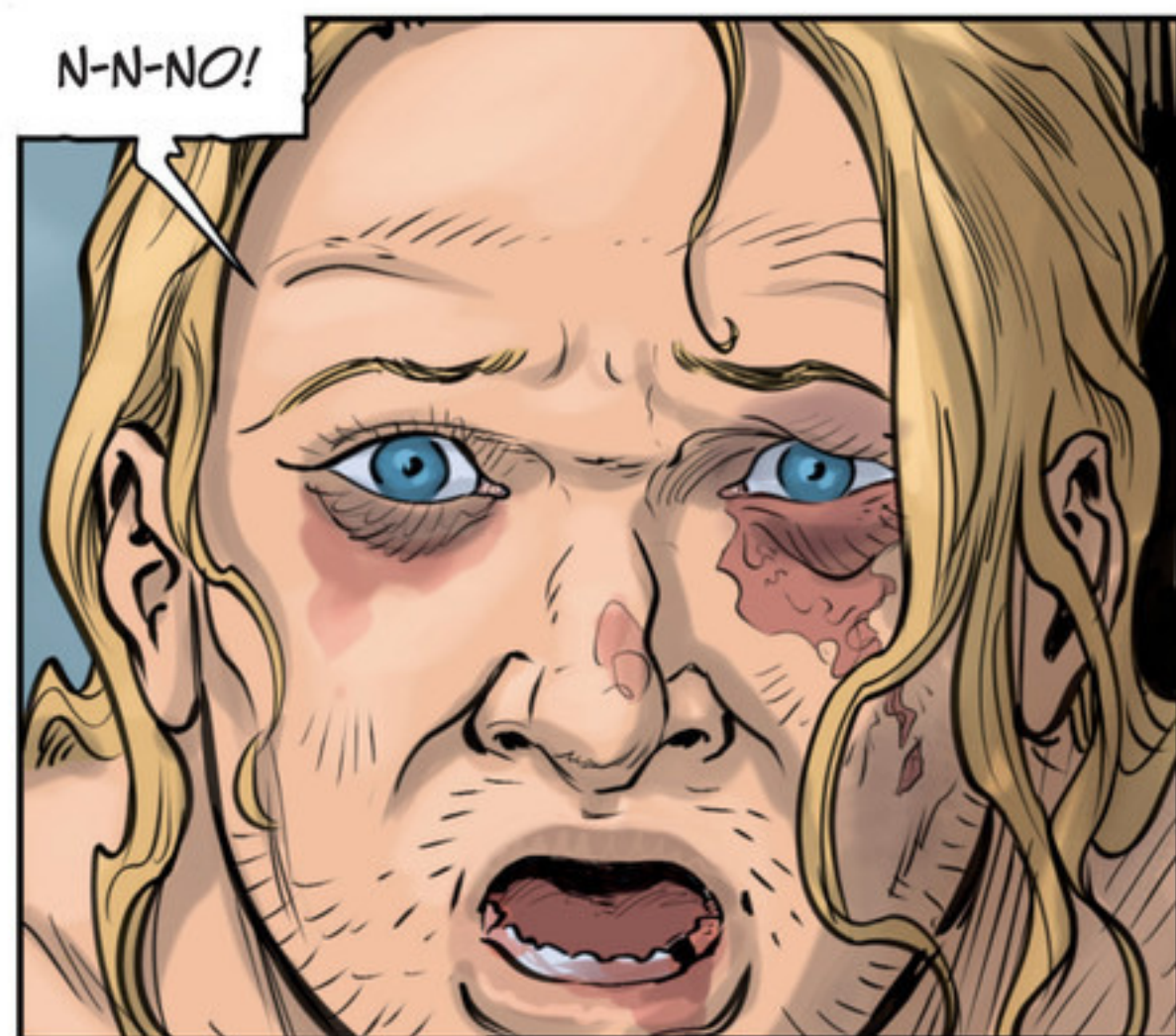
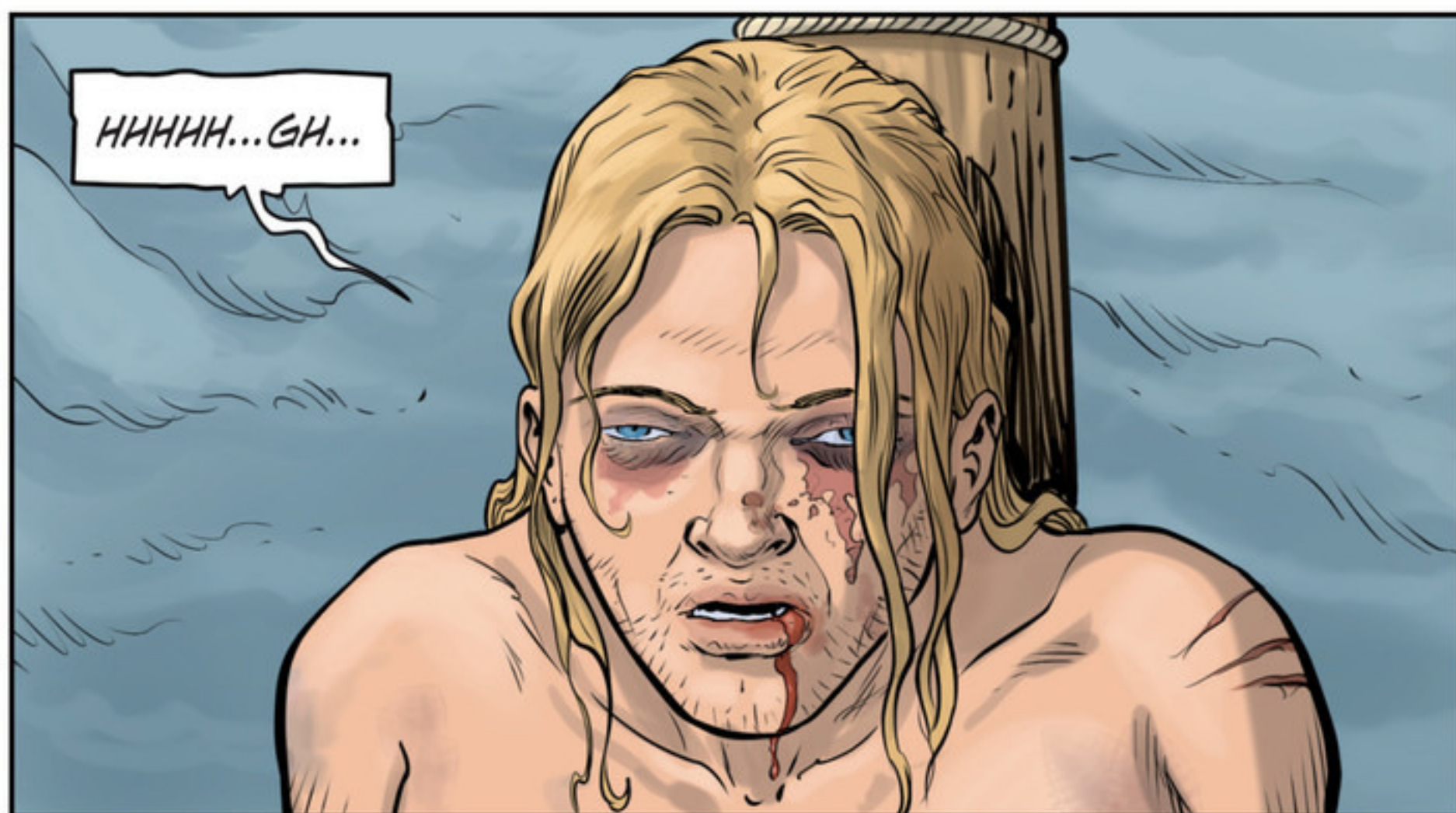
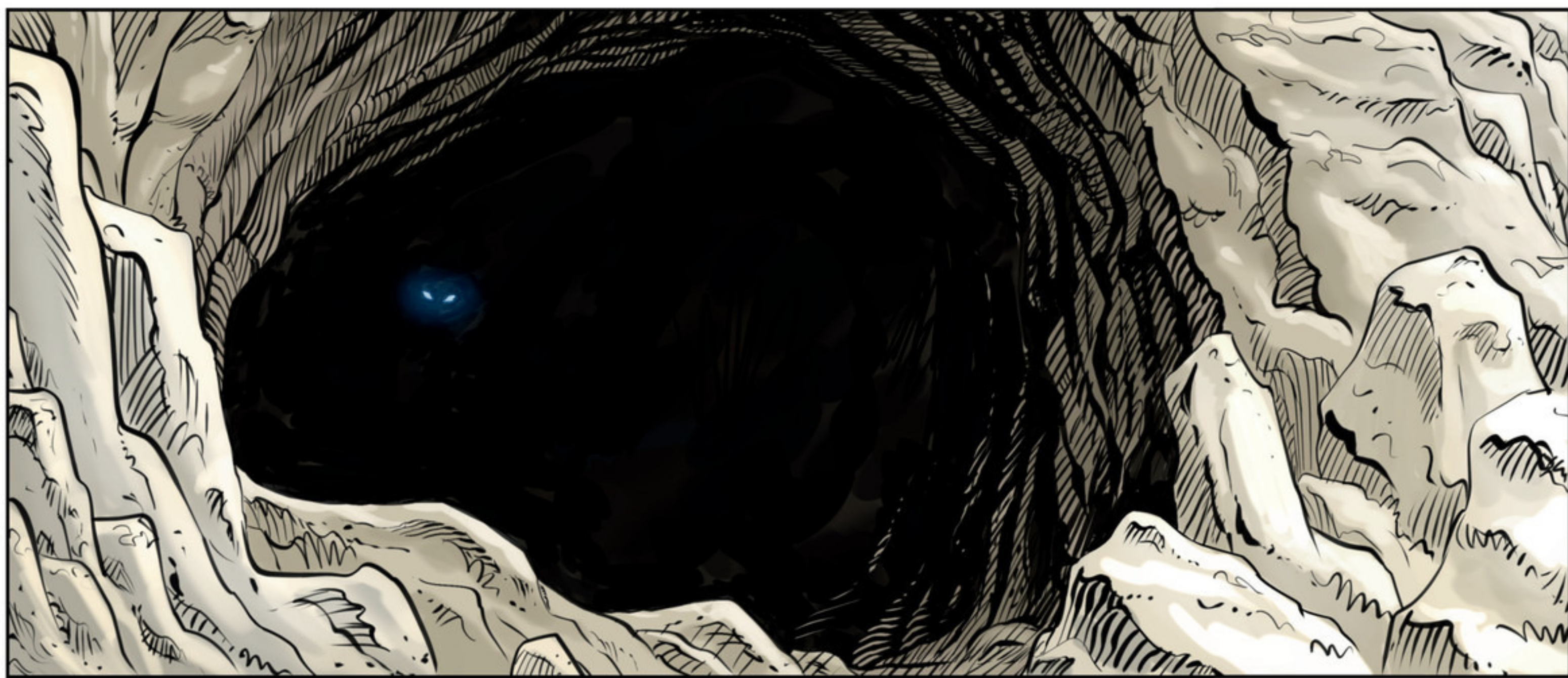
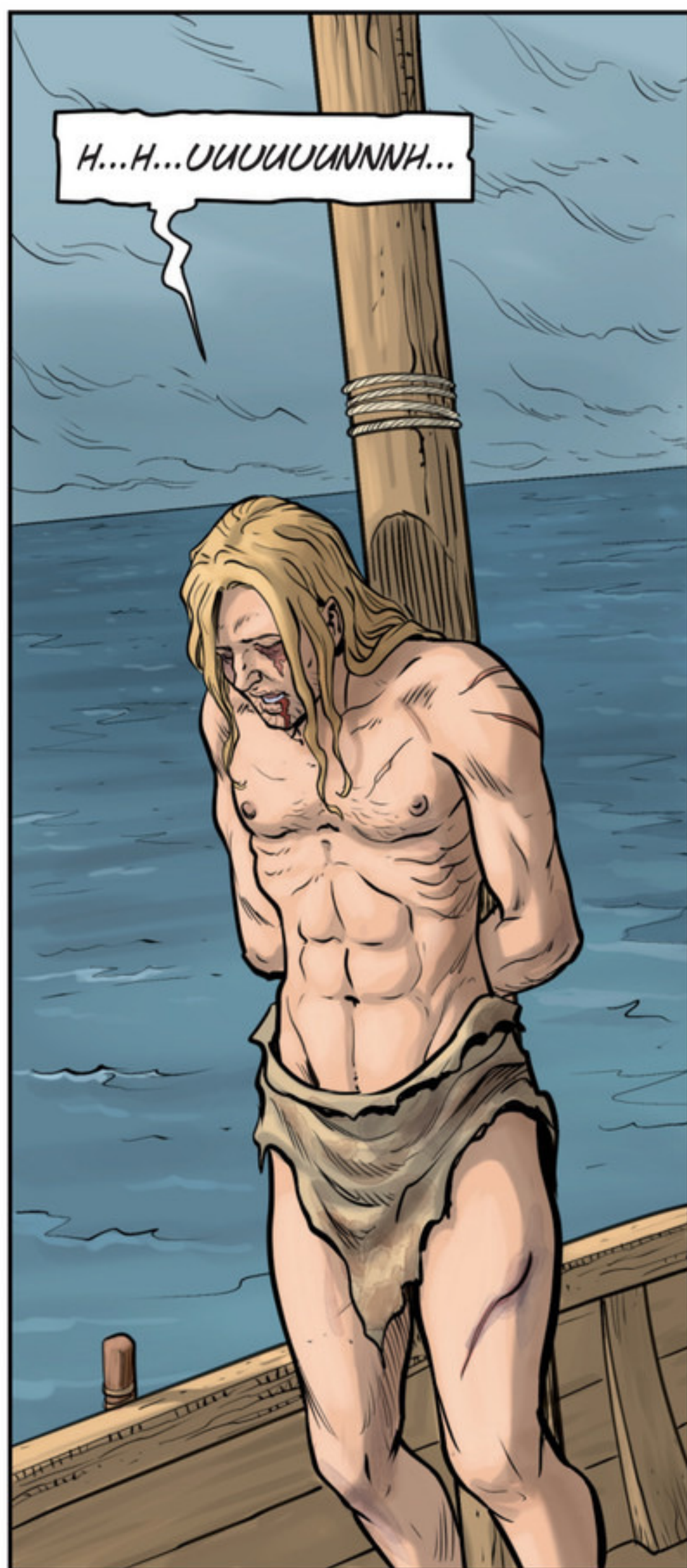
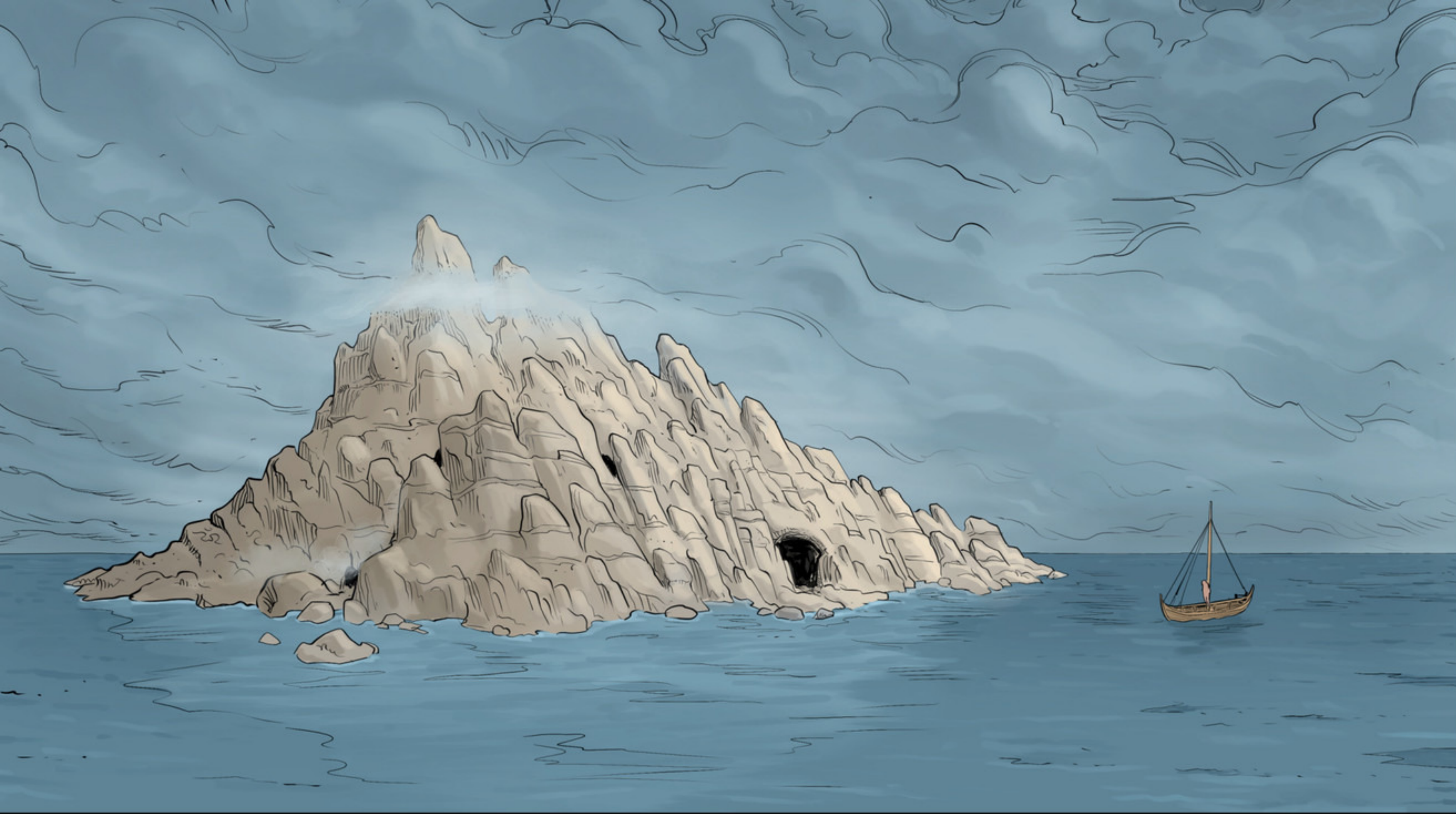
H...H...UUUUUUNNH...
HHHH...

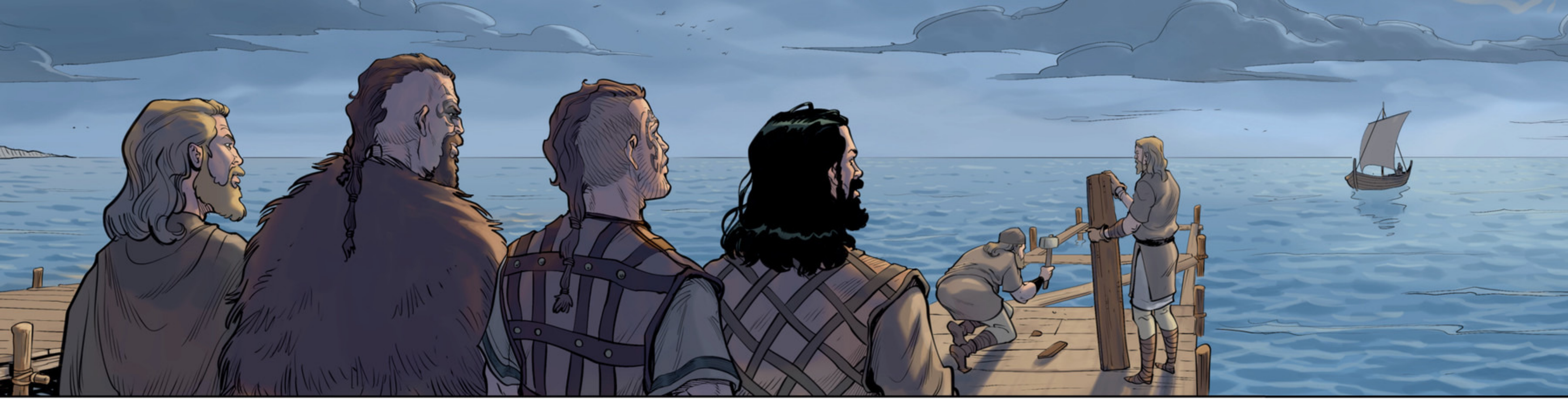


HHHHH...GH...



MMMF?
MMMMGNN!





WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH RODRIK? THORD ALERTED US AFTER HE SAW YOU TAKE HIM AWAY BY FORCE LAST NIGHT.



RODRIK HAS REVERTED BACK TO THE BRAVE MAN HE ONCE WAS. HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR US... AND EARNED HIS PLACE IN VALHALLA.



HOW DARE YOU DECIDE WHO GETS TO LIVE OR DIE? YOU'RE NOT THE JARL OF THIS VILLAGE!



SVEIN...?



THERE'S NO USE BEGGING MY SON FOR HELP! YOU'VE OVERSTEPPED YOUR--

LOTHAR, OVER HERE!



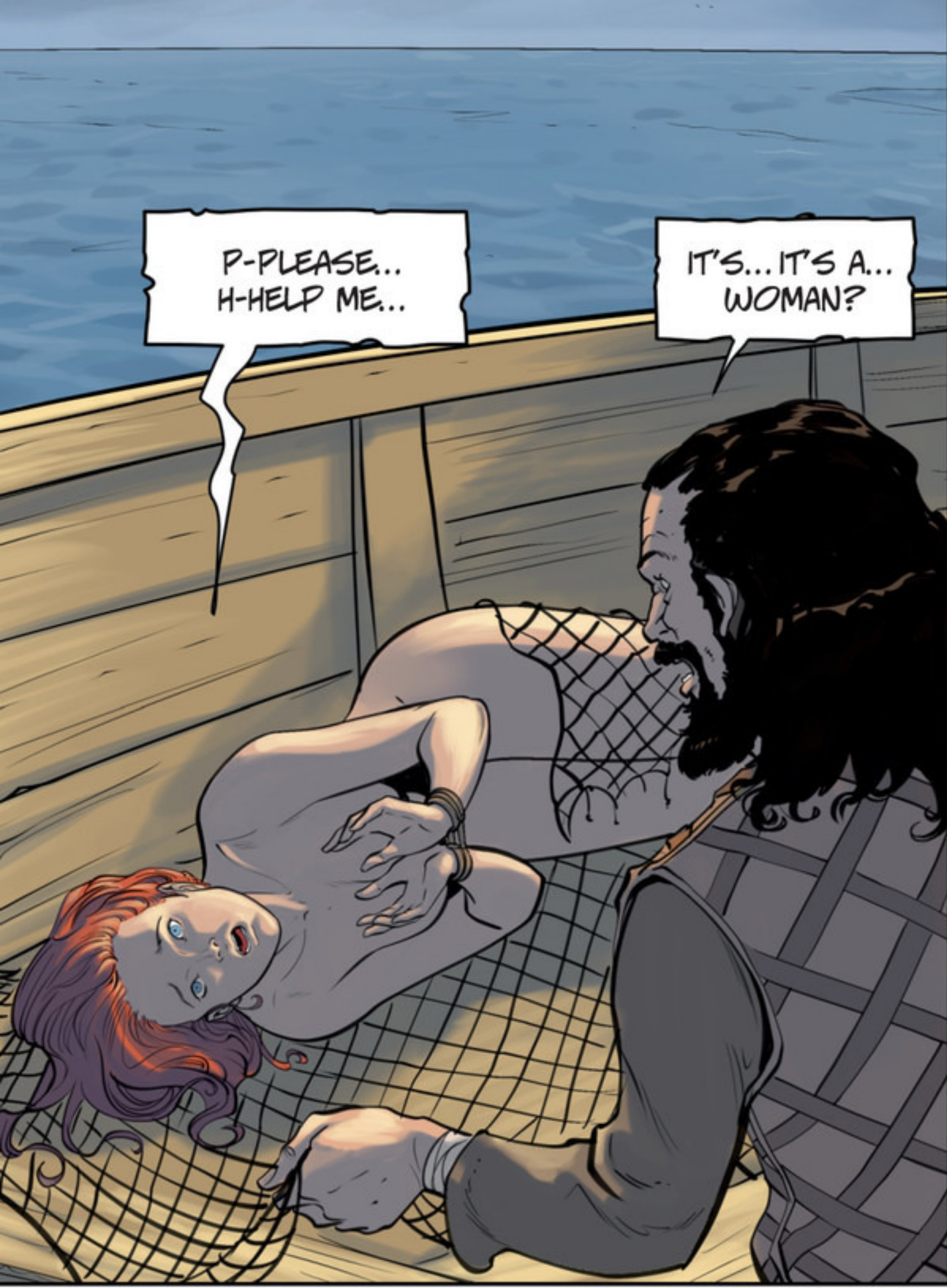
THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING IN THAT NET.

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? WHAT IS IT?



I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU.

SHUT UP! LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE NOT THE JARL OF THIS--



P-PLEASE...
H-HELP ME...

IT'S... IT'S A...
WOMAN?

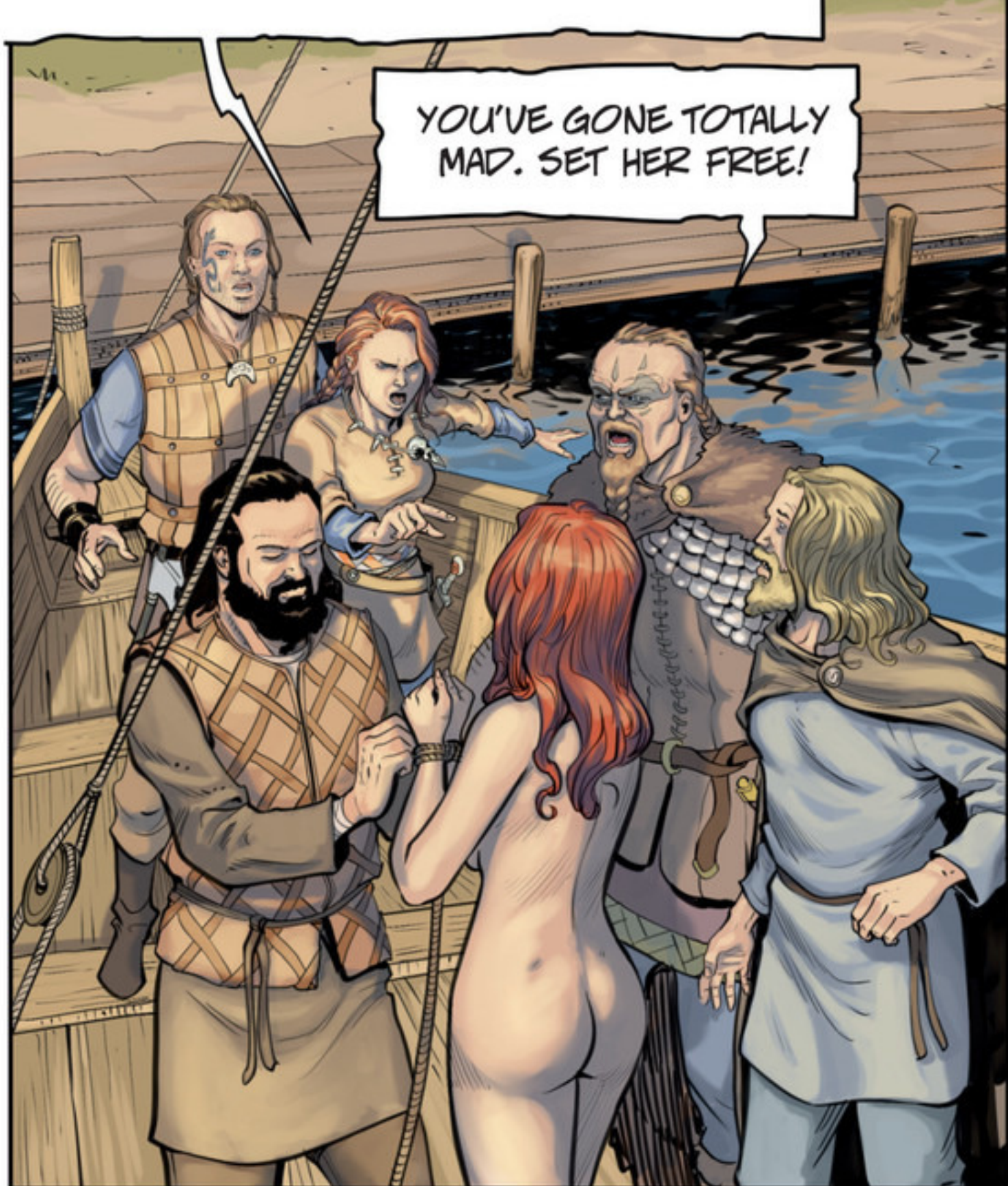


EXPLAIN YOURSELF, FREYDIS!
WHO IS THIS PRISONER
AND WHY IS SHE HERE?



I... I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON. I
WAS SWIMMING AND THIS
WOMAN ATTACKED ME FOR
NO REASON. PLEASE LET
ME GO! PLEASE!

LIES! SHE'S NOT WHAT SHE APPEARS TO
BE, LOTHAR. THIS CREATURE IS A DEMON.



YOU'VE GONE TOTALLY
MAD. SET HER FREE!



NO!

STOP IT,
FREYDIS!



UHN!



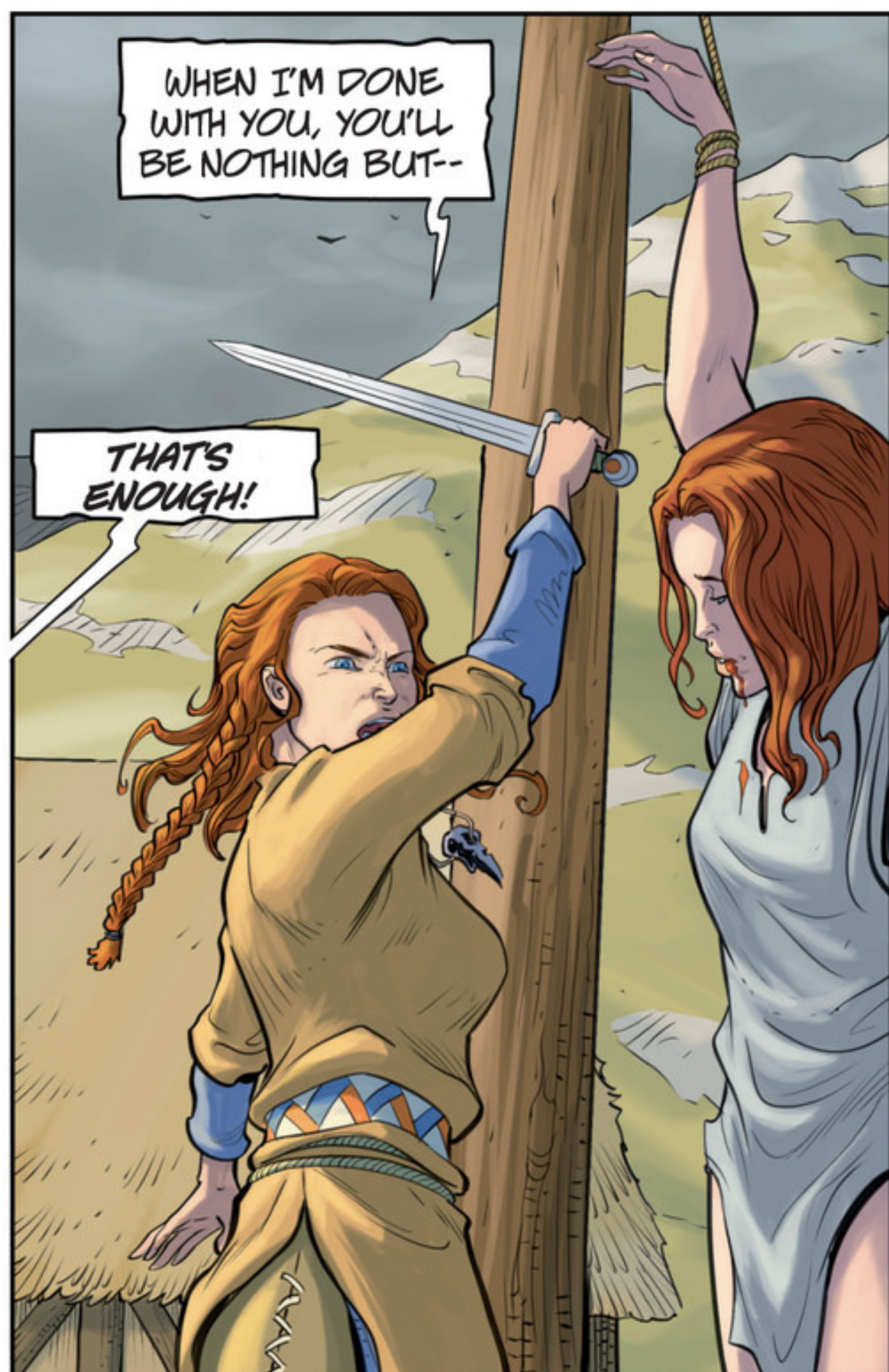
SPLASH



BY ODIN, GET THIS POOR
WOMAN OUT OF THERE
BEFORE SHE DROWNS!

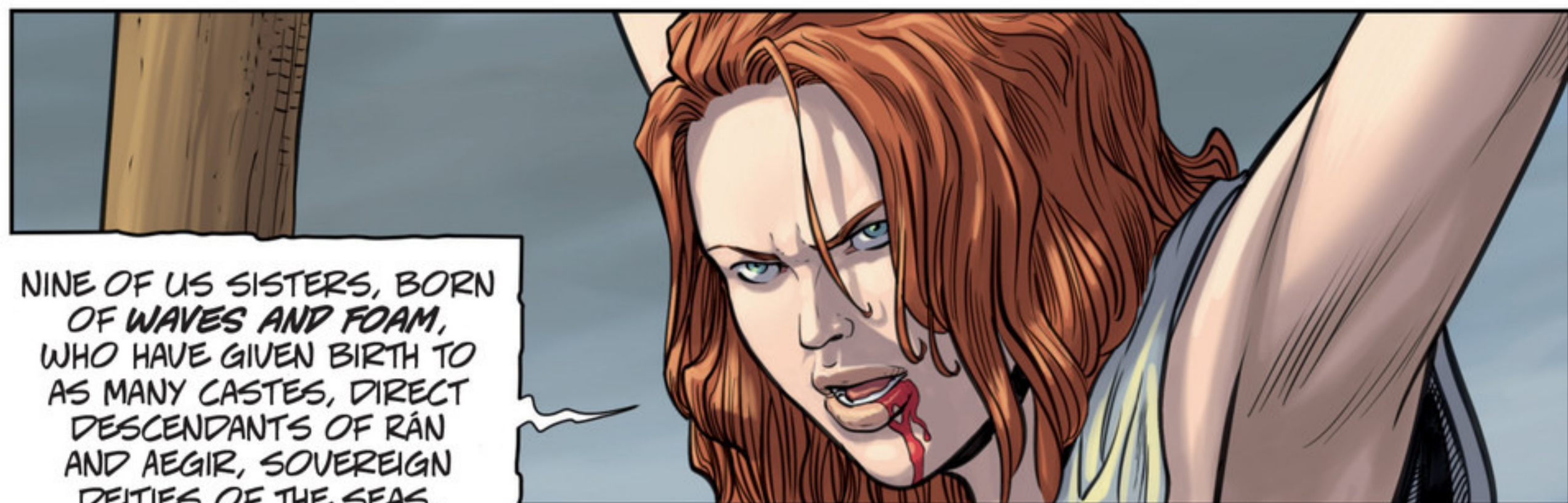


WHAT IN
THE NAME OF
MJÖLNIR...?!





HAHAHAHA! "DESTROY" US...? YOU'RE CRAZY, NORSE... YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE BEST PREPARE TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR CRUELITIES! HEAR ME, HEERING, **THE RISING WAVE!**



NINE OF US SISTERS, BORN OF WAVES AND FOAM, WHO HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO AS MANY CASTES, DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF RAN AND AEGIR, SOVEREIGN DEITIES OF THE SEAS.



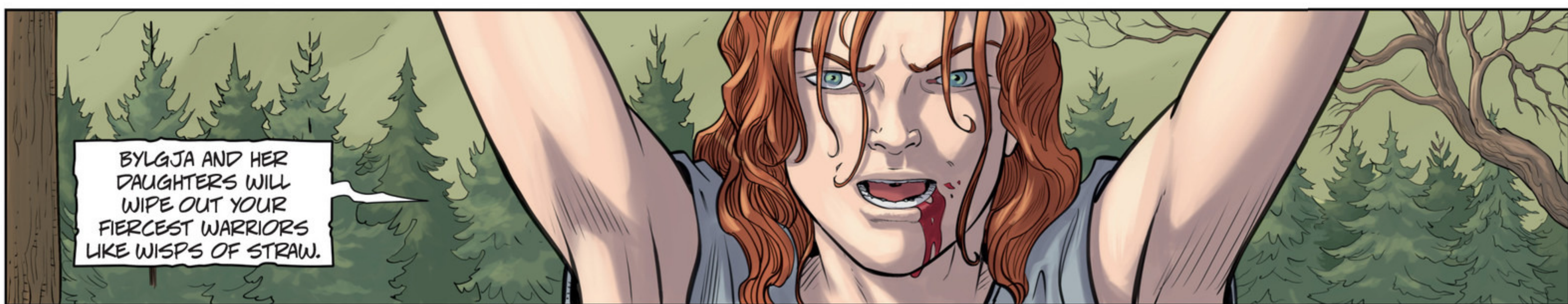
WHILE MY DAUGHTERS AND I CAN TAKE ON YOUR APPEARANCE AND BREATHE ON LAND LONGER THAN THE OTHERS TO BETTER HUNT YOU DOWN, EACH OF MY SISTERS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS HAVE OTHER, EVEN MORE **TERRIFYING** ABILITIES.



CHAOS WILL SOON DESCEND UPON YOUR VILLAGE LIKE THE RAGNARÖK!



MY SISTER KOLGA WILL UNLEASH THE FORCES OF NATURE AND SWEEP AWAY YOUR HUTS WITH A SINGLE WAVE, WHILE LIGHTNING TURNS YOUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO ASH.



BYLGJA AND HER DAUGHTERS WILL WIPE OUT YOUR FIERCEST WARRIORS LIKE WISPS OF STRAW.



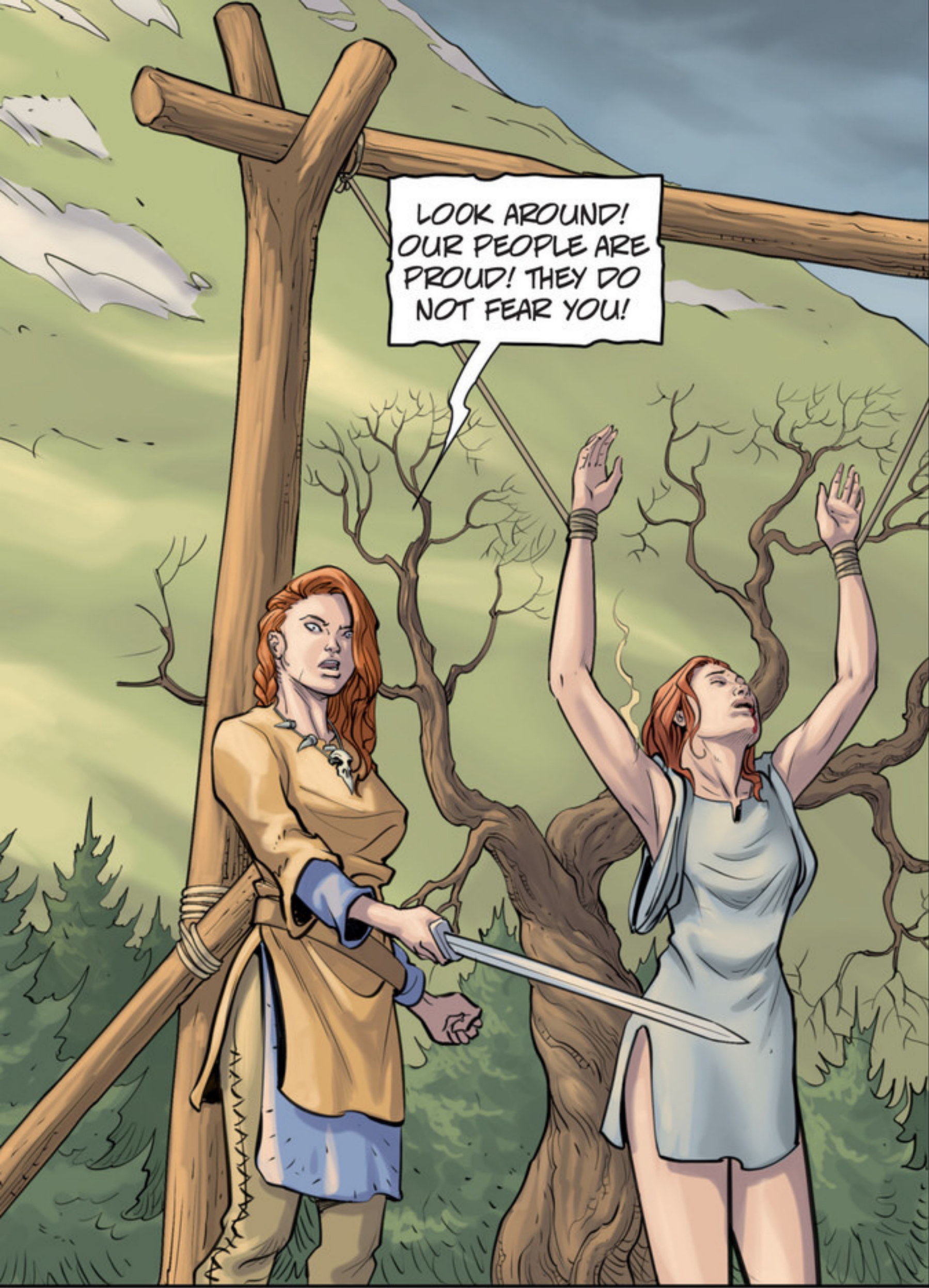
DUFA'S MORAY EELS WILL TEAR INTO YOUR GUTS, EATING YOU ALIVE WHILE YOU **BEG** TO BE PUT OUT OF YOUR MISERY.



ENOUGH!

FSSSSHHHHHHH

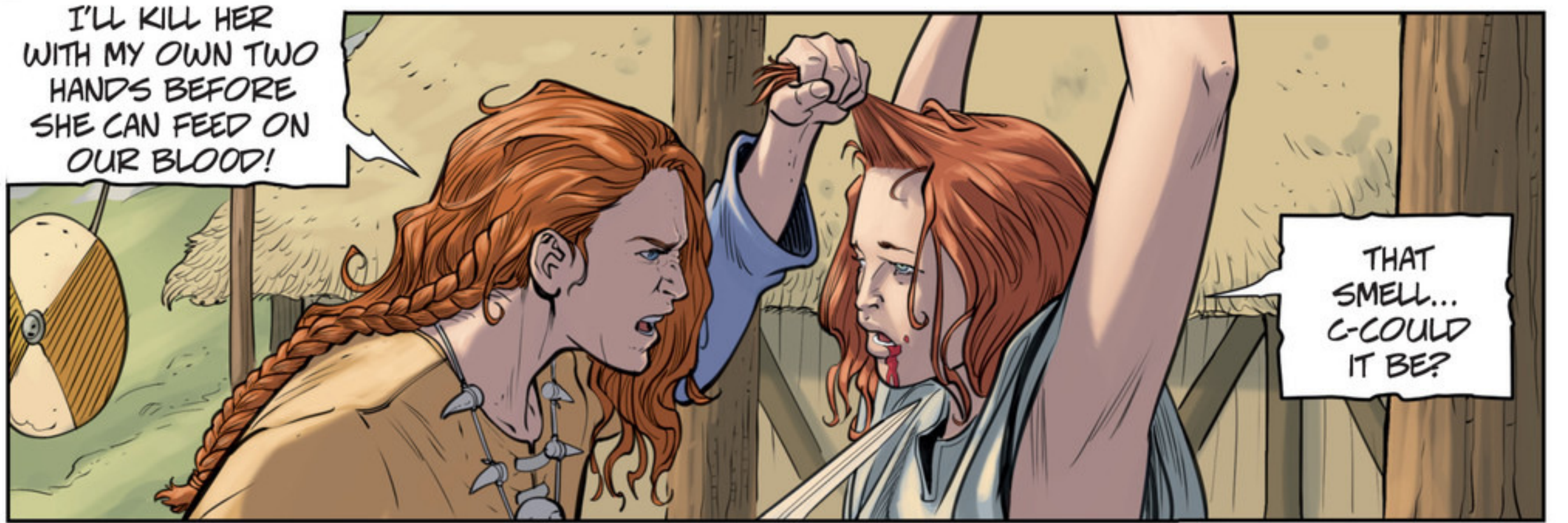
AAARGGGGHHH!



LOOK AROUND!
OUR PEOPLE ARE
PROUD! THEY DO
NOT FEAR YOU!



BUT... WHAT IF SHE'S
SAYING THE TRUTH?
WHAT IF THE OTHERS
COME TO AVENGE HER?

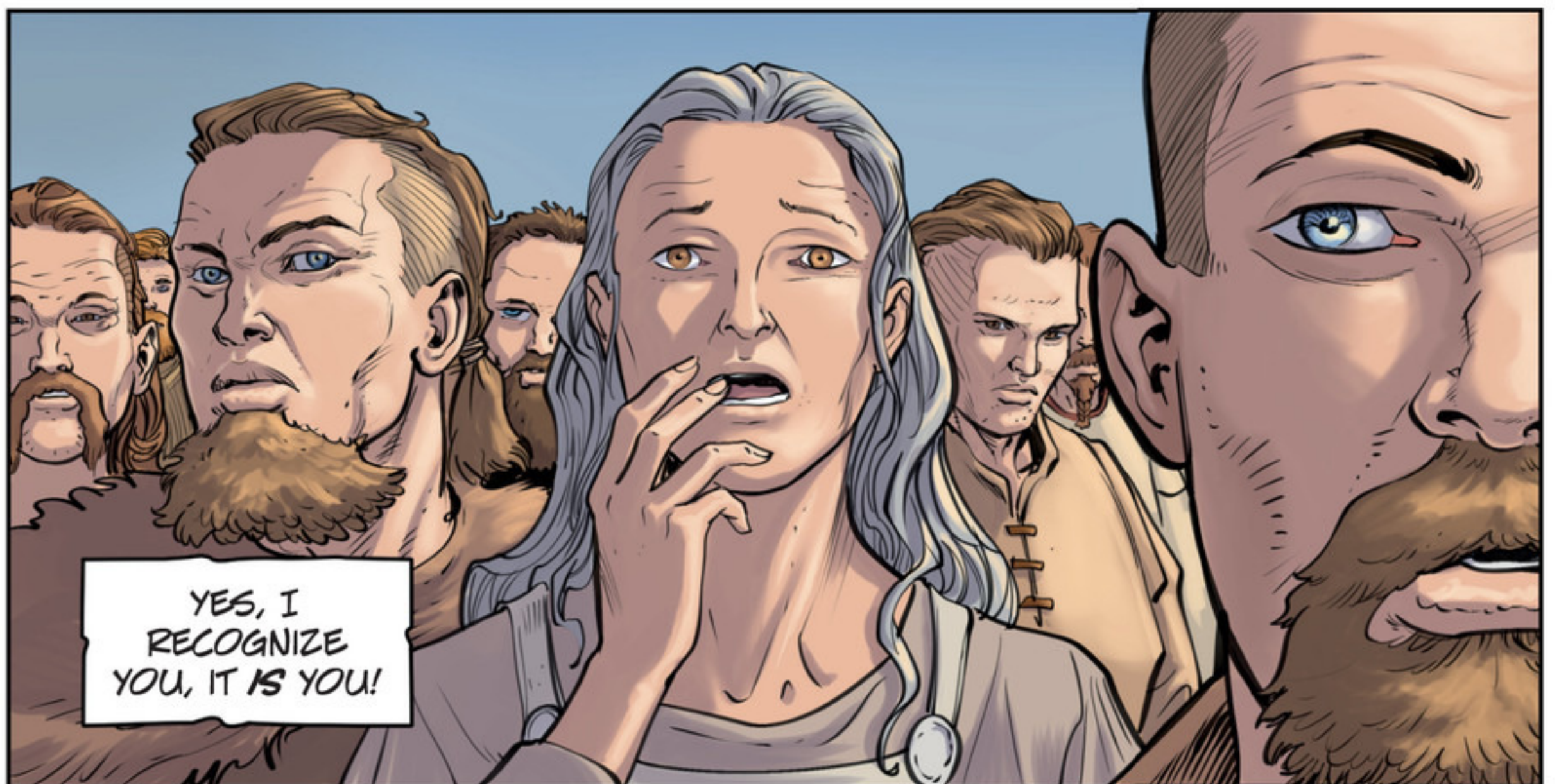


I'LL KILL HER
WITH MY OWN TWO
HANDS BEFORE
SHE CAN FEED ON
OUR BLOOD!

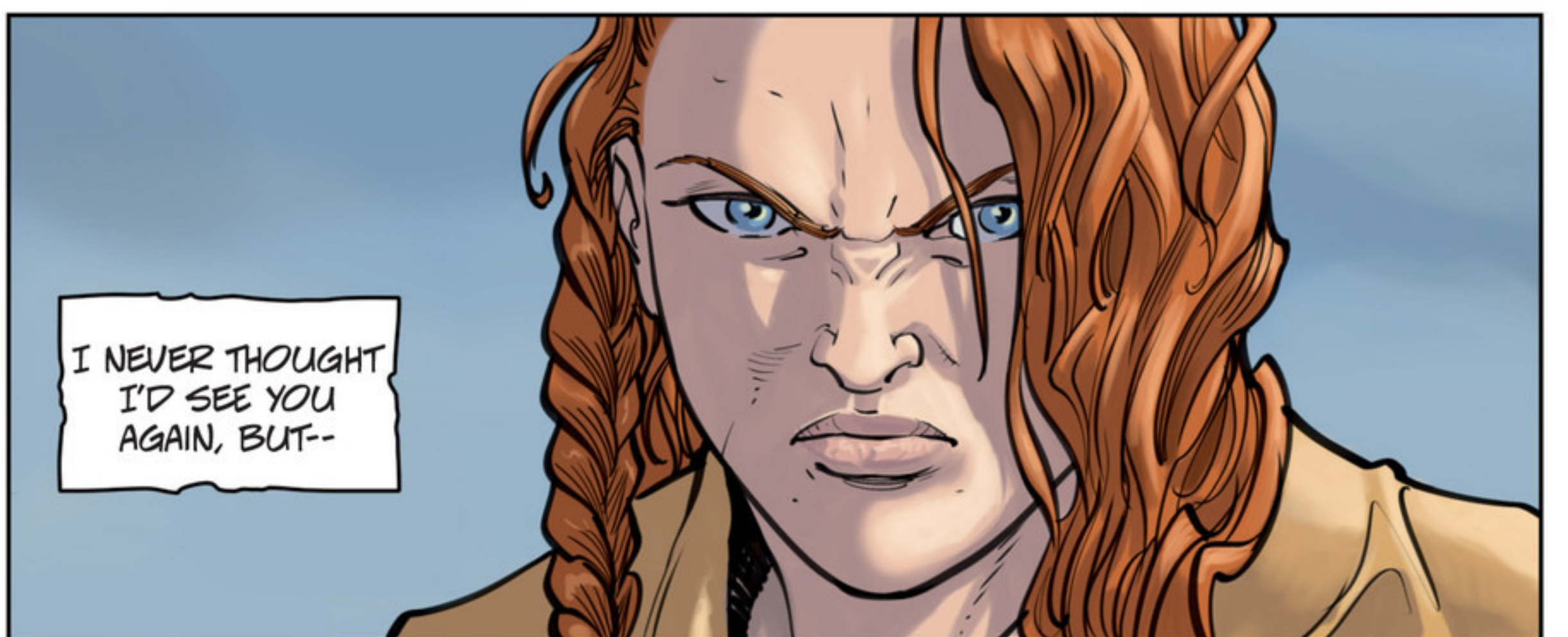
THAT
SMELL...
C-COULD
IT BE?



BY THE HORNS OF
JÖRMUNGANDR...
Y-YOU?...



YES, I
RECOGNIZE
YOU, IT IS YOU!



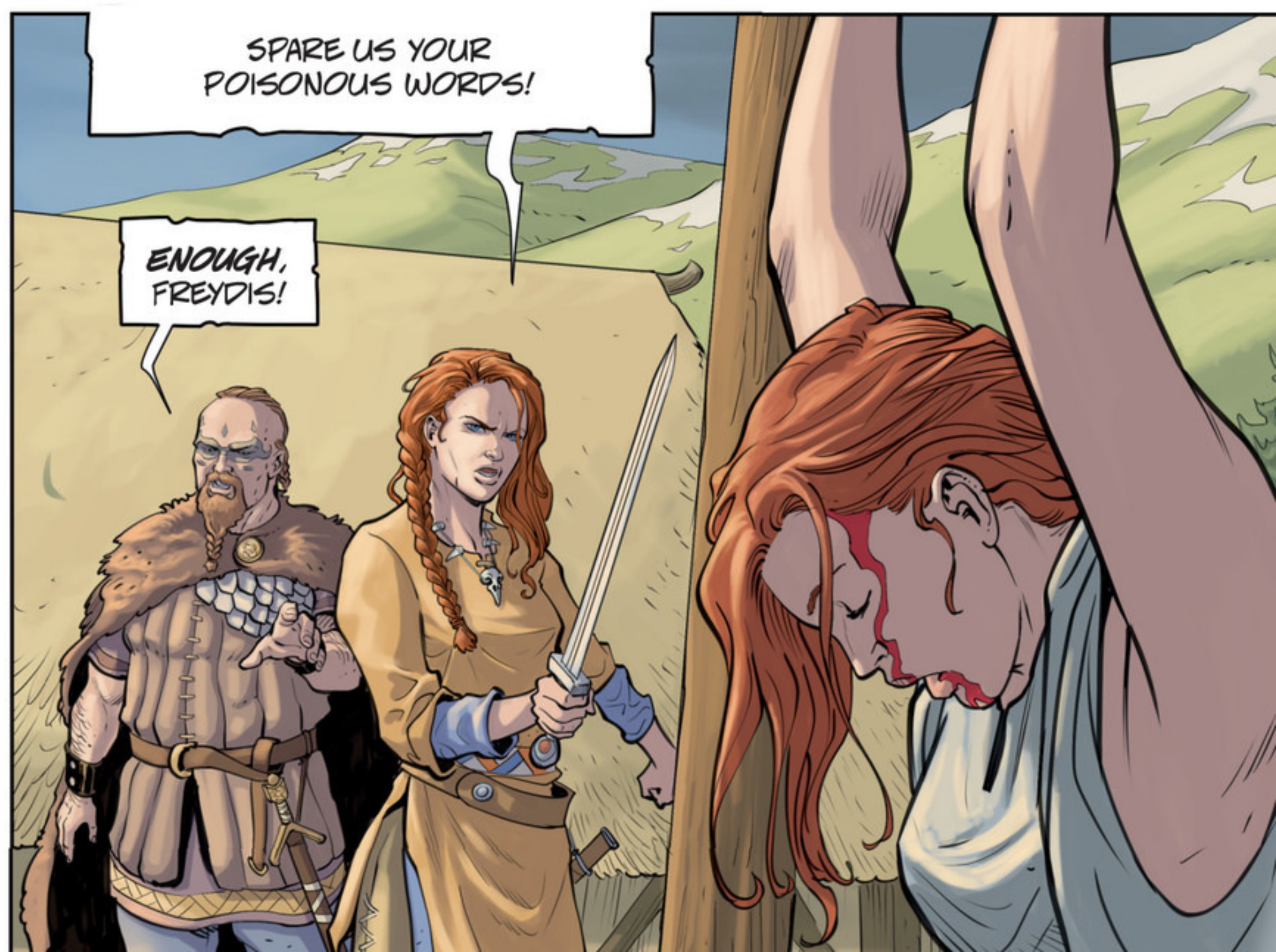
I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D SEE YOU
AGAIN, BUT--



SHUT UP!

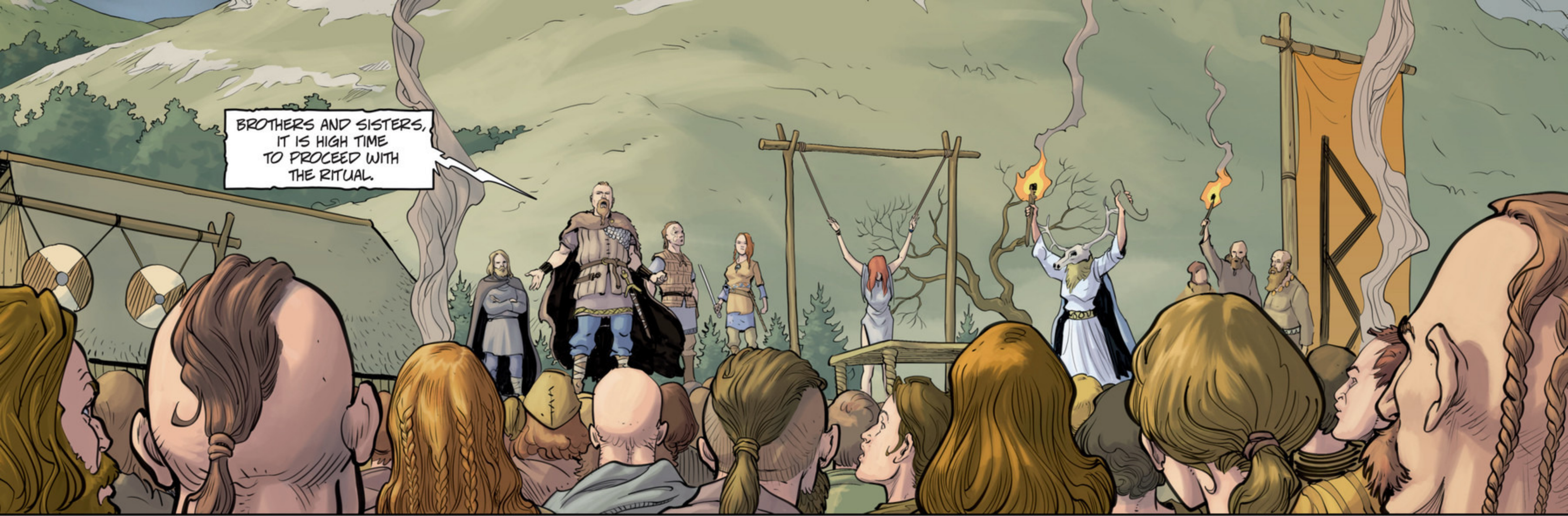
WHACK

UUUUNH!

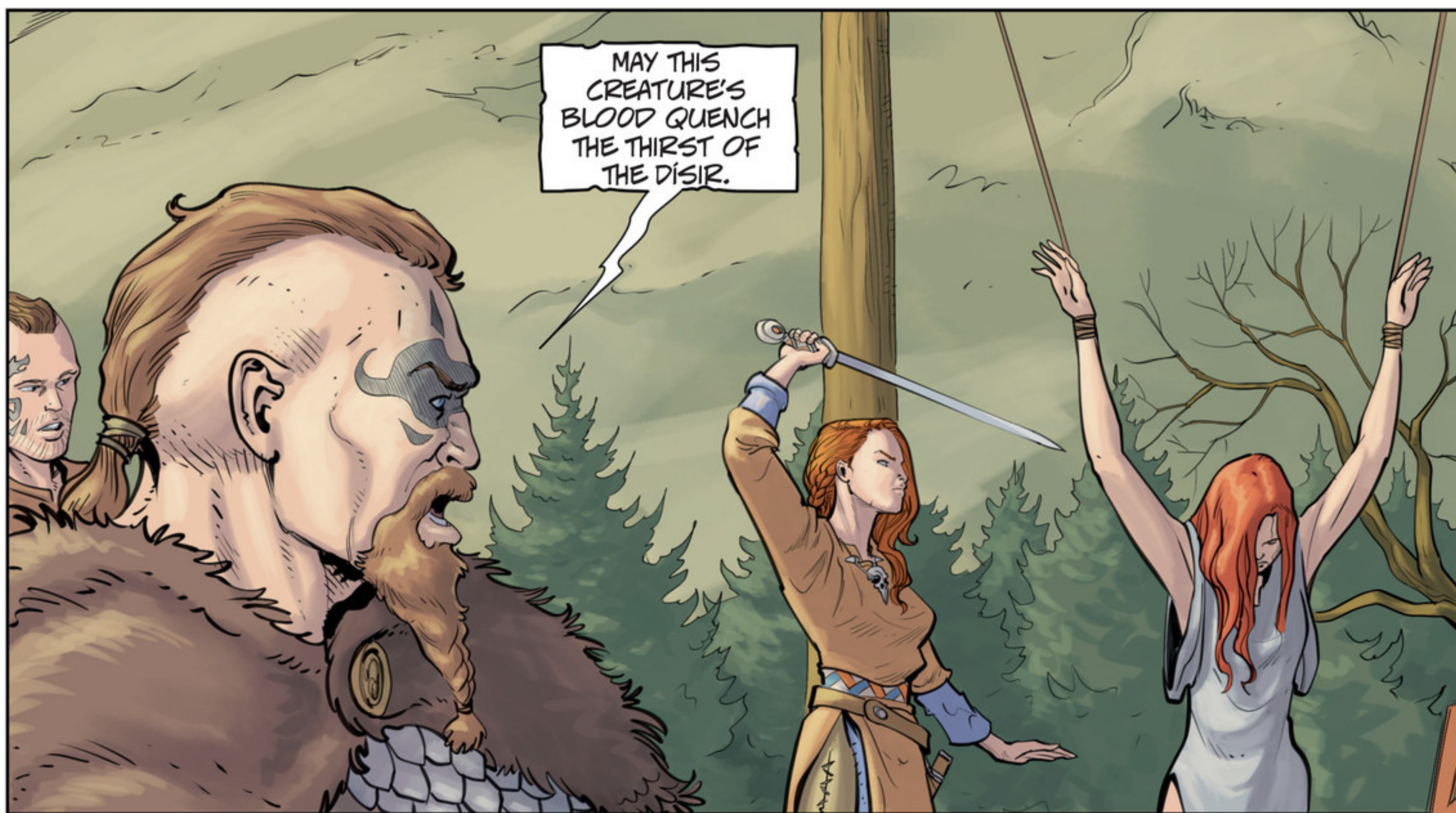


SPARE US YOUR
POISONOUS WORDS!

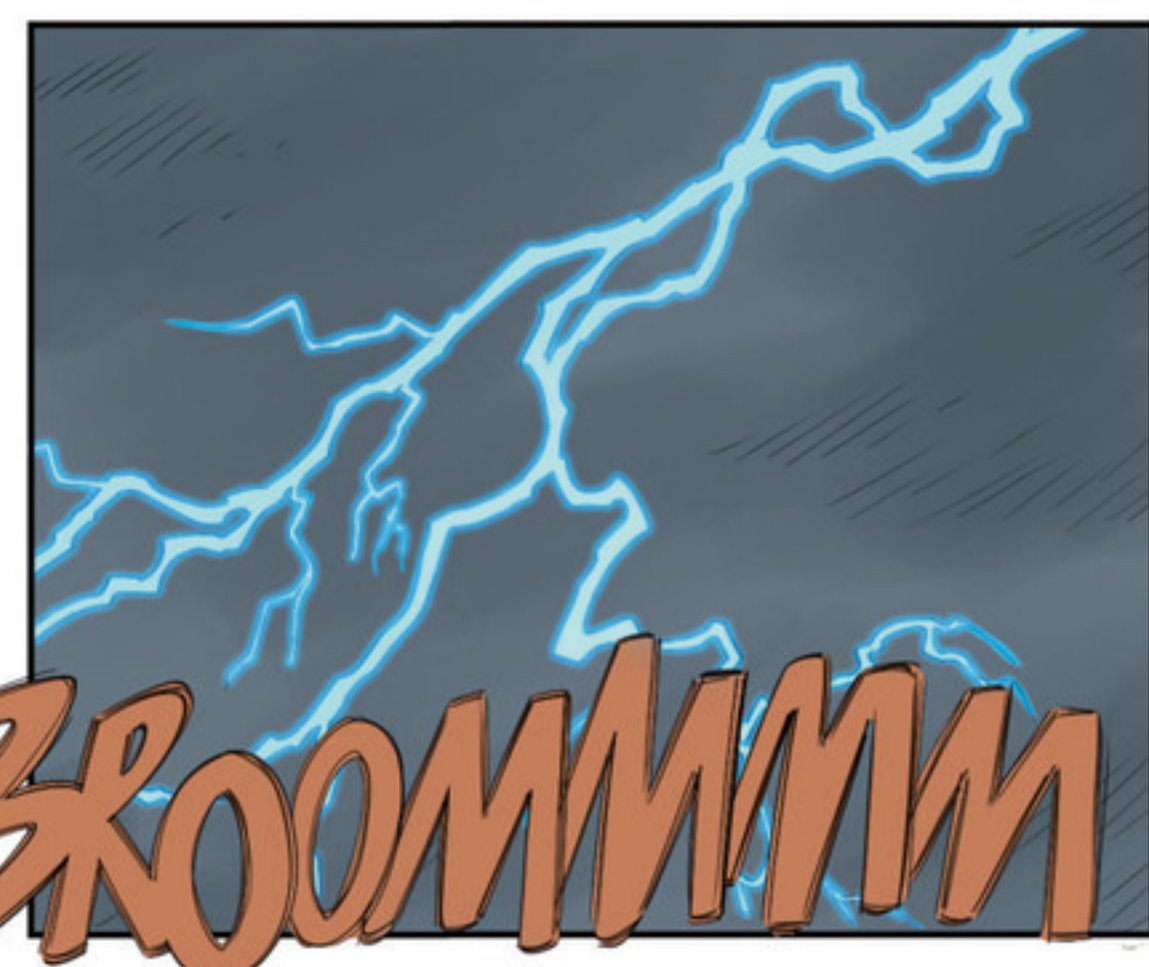
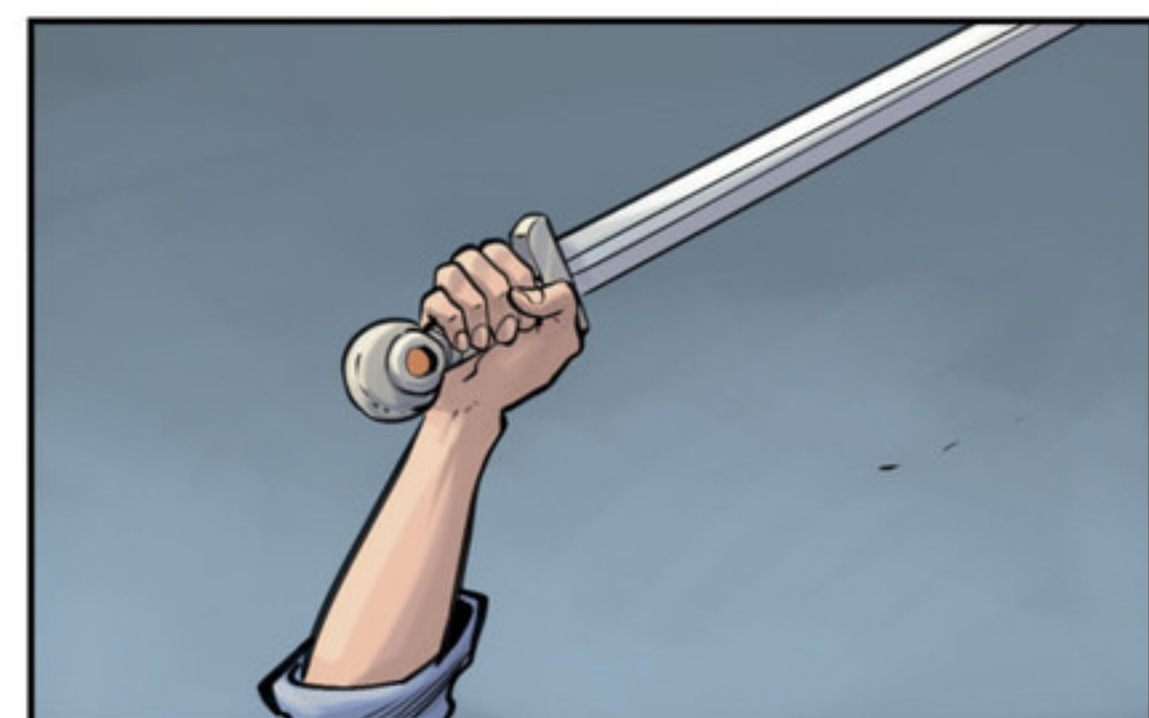
ENOUGH,
FREYDIS!



BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
IT IS HIGH TIME
TO PROCEED WITH
THE RITUAL.



MAY THIS
CREATURE'S
BLOOD QUENCH
THE THIRST OF
THE DISIR.



BROOMMMM



CRAAK

UUNH!



B-BY ODIN,
WHAT THE--?



HELA HAVE
MERCY ON OUR
SOULS...





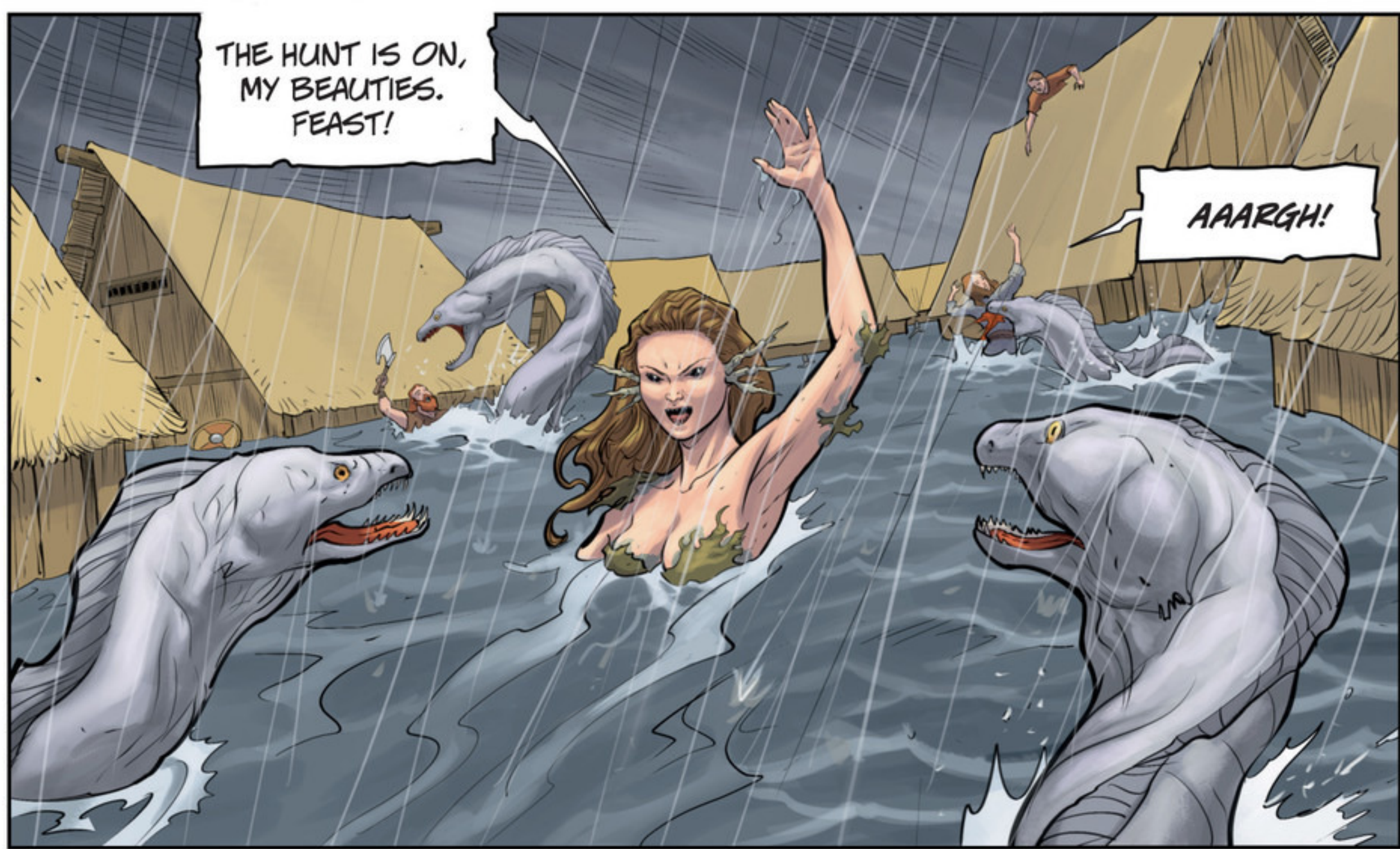
IT'S THE RAGNARÖK!
JÖRMUNGANDR IS
AFTER US!

AAAAAAAHH!

HAVE MERCY!



MY DAUGHTERS, LET
THE WRATH OF THOR
STRIKE DOWN UPON
THESE NORSE.



THE HUNT IS ON,
MY BEAUTIES.
FEAST!

AAARGH!



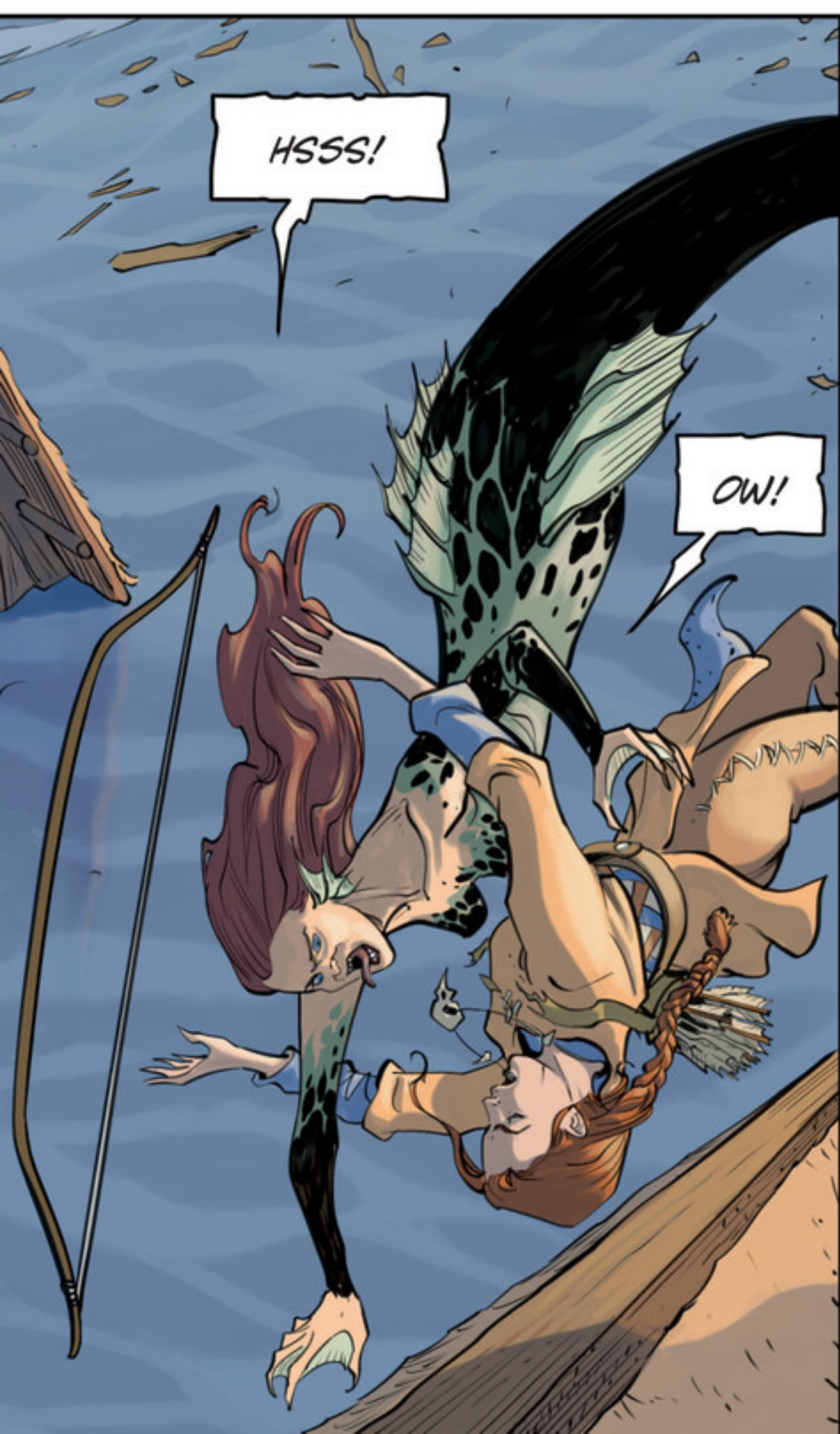
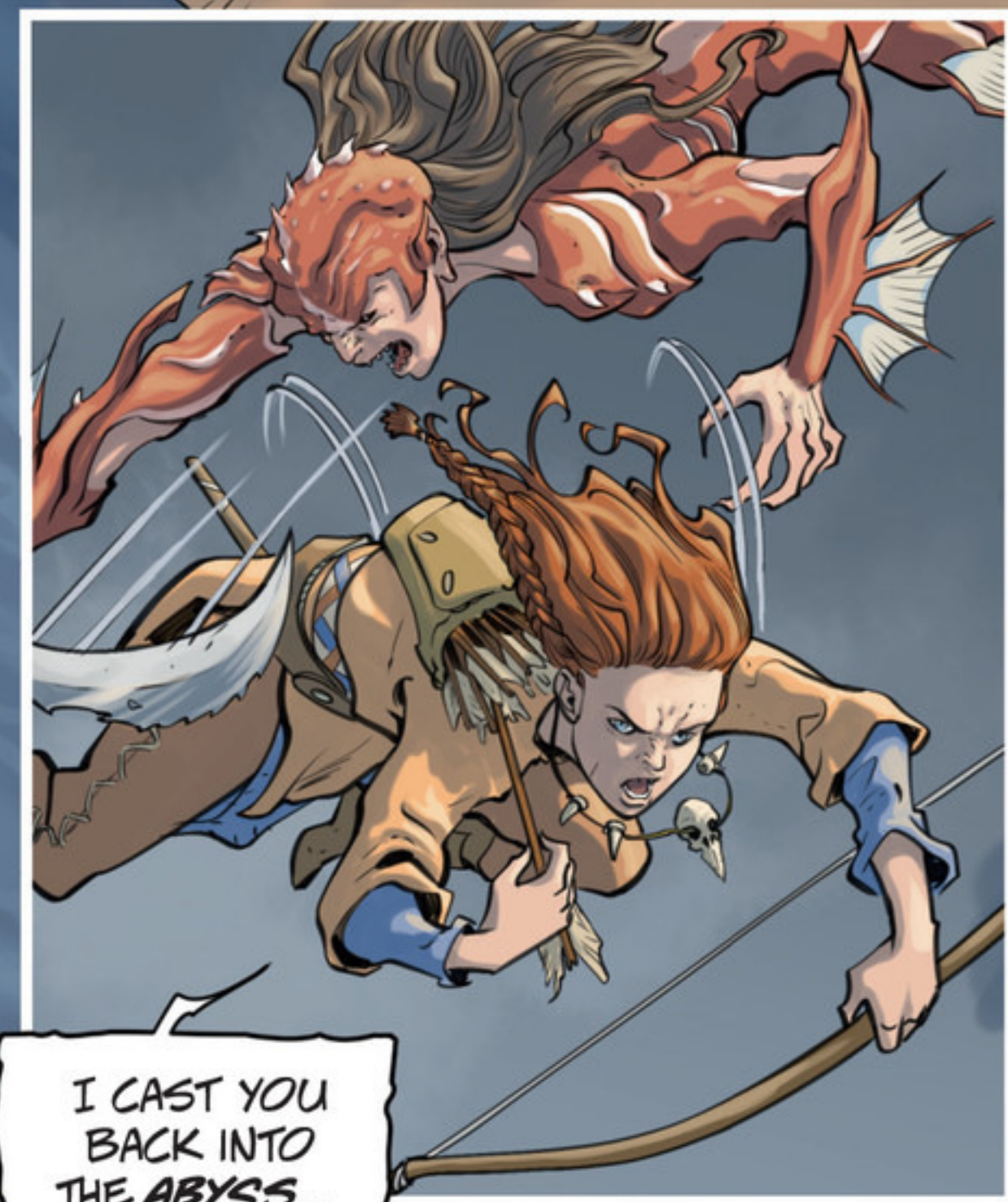
MAY THE WAVES OF
"THE SWELL" CRUSH
THESE PUNY CREATURES
INTO A PULP!

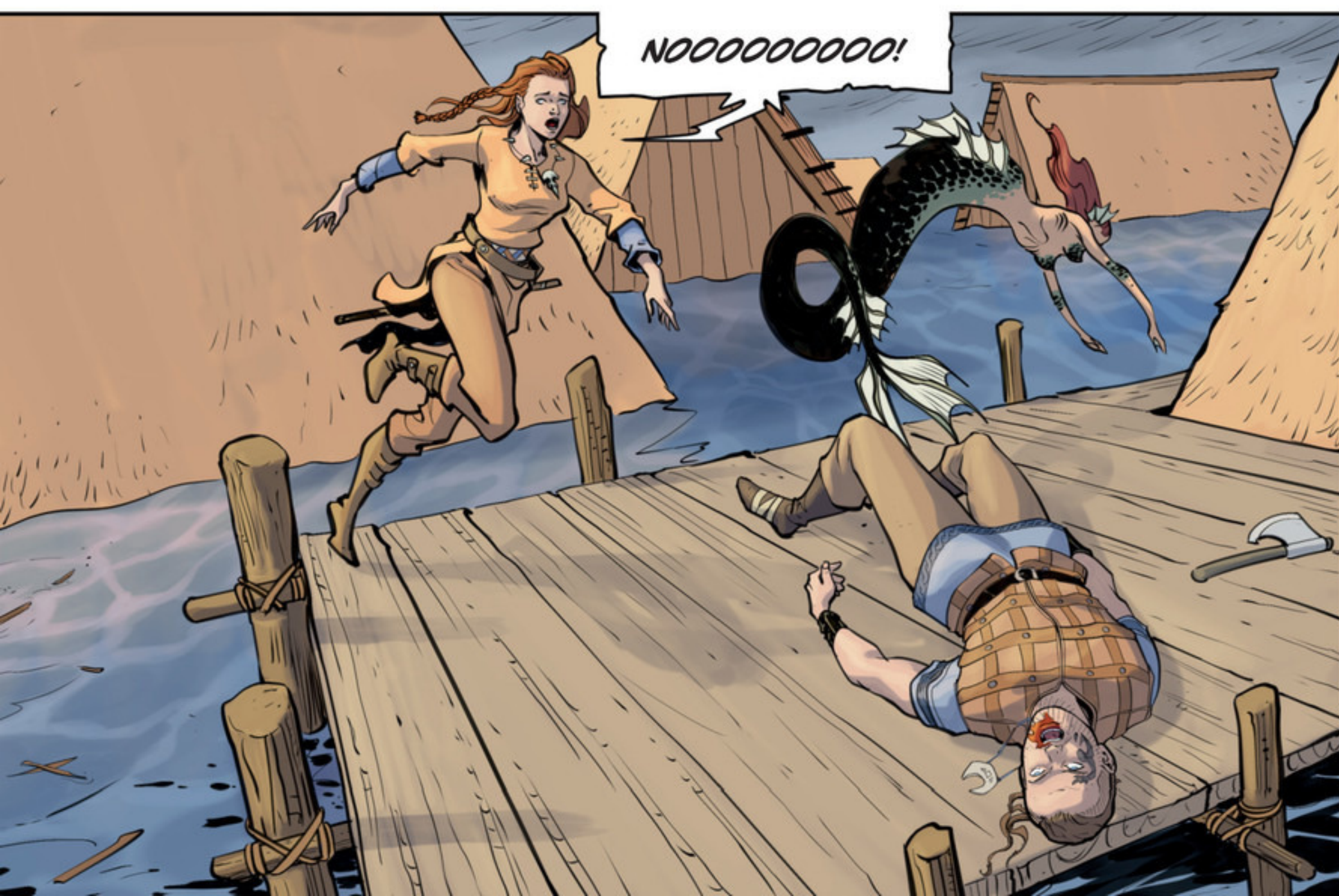
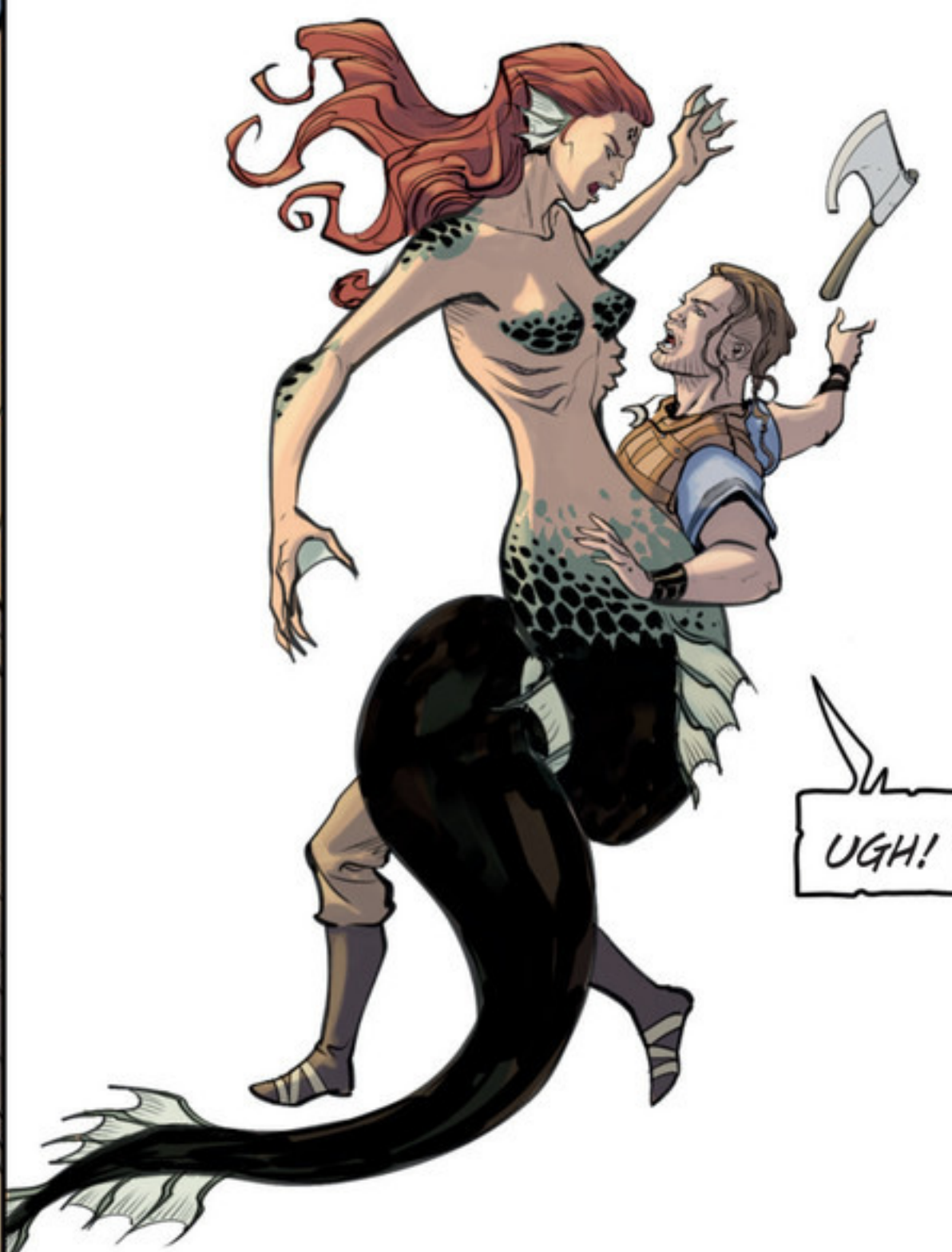
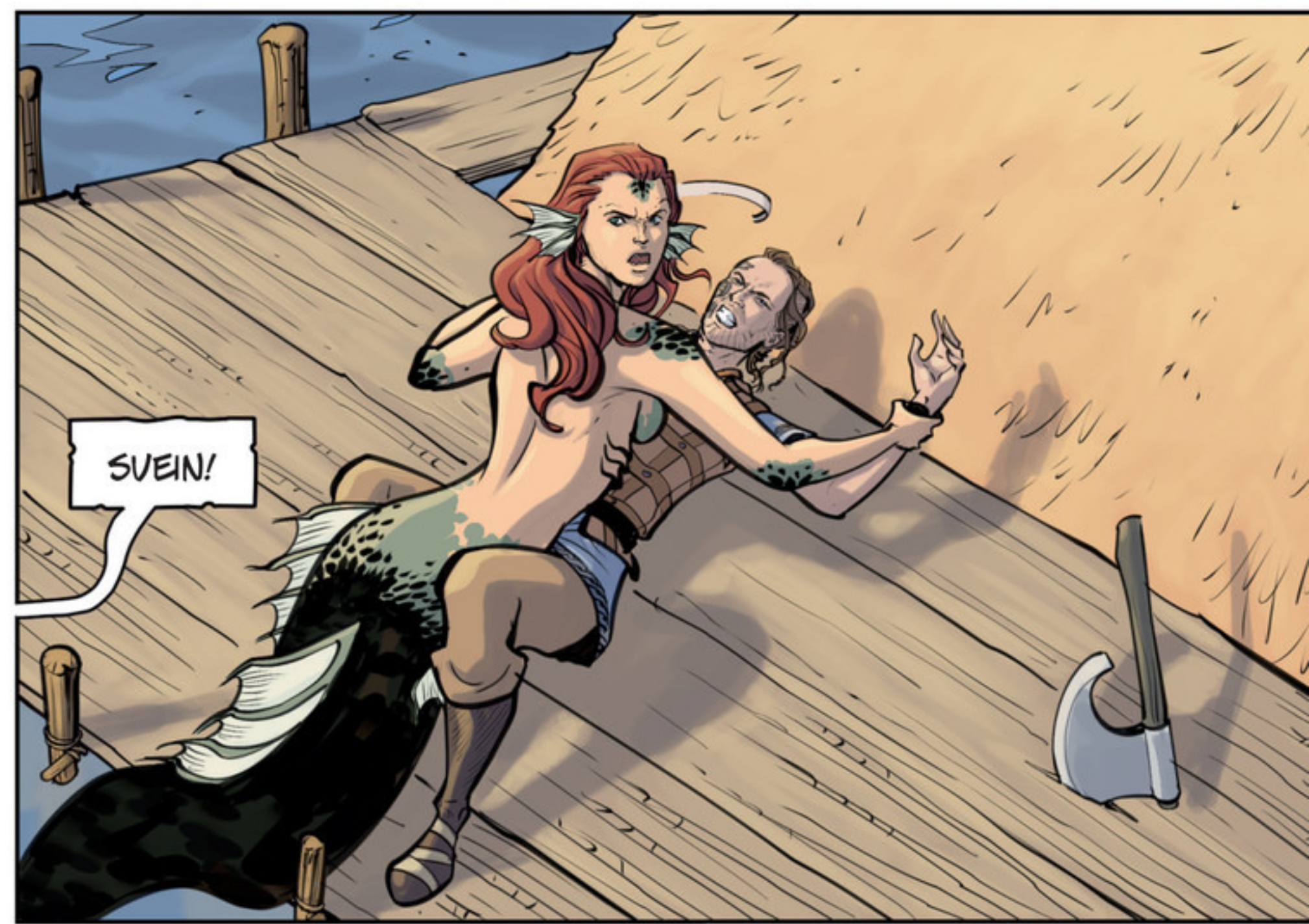
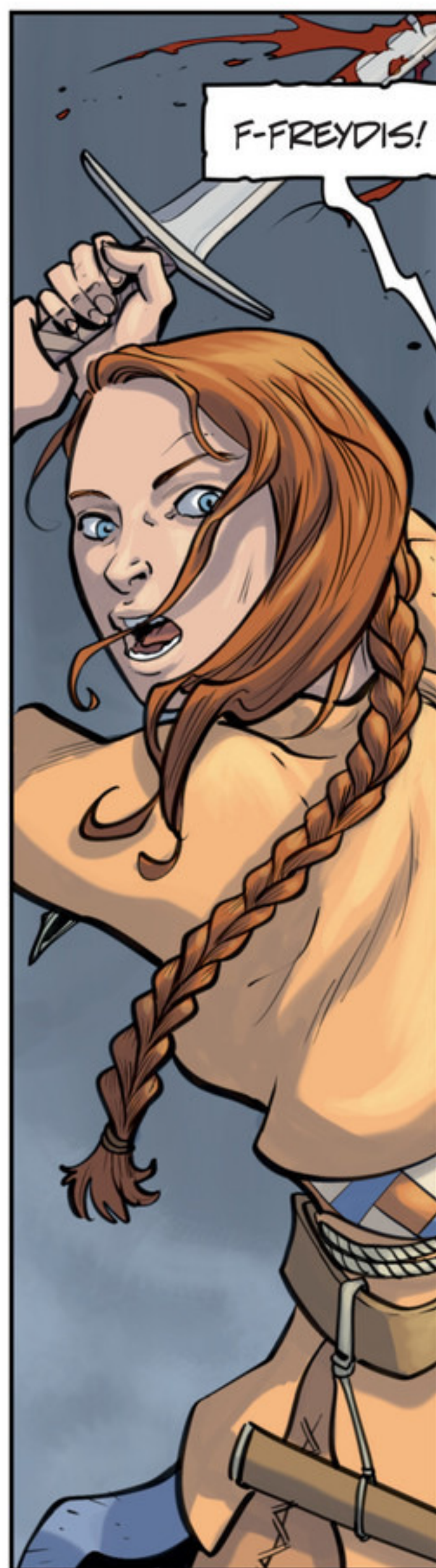
URGH!

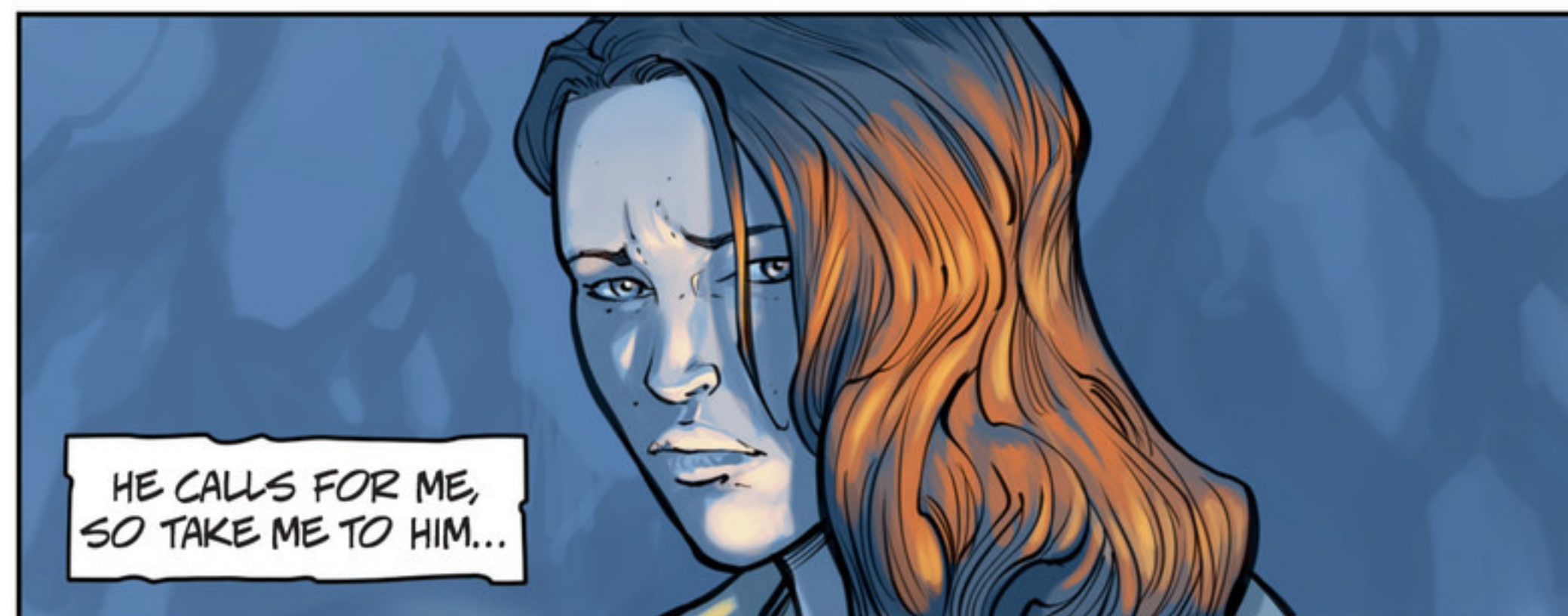
URK!



CREATURES
OF HEL!









SVEIN...
MY LOVE...



I'LL NEVER GET
THE CHANCE TO
BE THE WIFE YOU
DREAMED OF.



THE ONE WITH WHOM
YOU WOULD'VE
SHARED YOUR BED
FOR THE REST OF
OUR DAYS.

AND WHO
WOULD'VE GIVEN
YOU THE CHILDREN
YOU LONGED FOR.



DAMN
HAFVRUES!



BE STRONG, MY
JARL... YOUR SON
HOLDS A SPECIAL
PLACE IN VALHALLA.

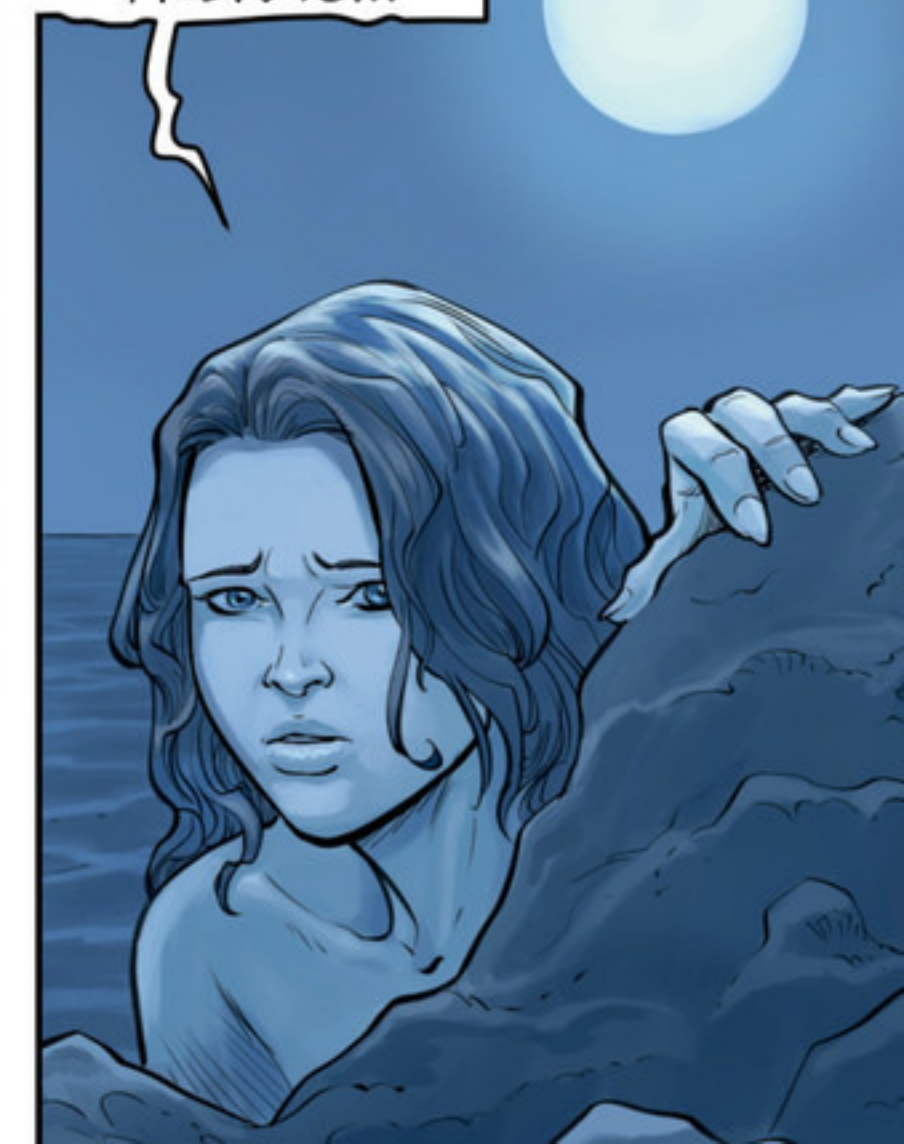
YOU THINK
I DON'T KNOW
THAT?



I MAY HAVE LOST A SON, BUT KÄTTEGLAND
HAS LOST ITS FUTURE AND MOST NOBLE
JARL--THE ONE WHO WOULD HAVE LED
OUR COMMUNITY TO PROSPERITY.
A BELOVED AND LOVING LEADER...



I NEVER
WANTED THIS
TO HAPPEN,
FREYDIS...



YEAR 870. 15 YEARS
EARLIER. SOMEWHERE
AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE OCEAN.

HOW COULD YOU HAVE
HIDDEN HER FROM US
THESE PAST SIX YEARS,
HEFRING?

ARE YOU UNAWARE OF THE
SACRED PRINCIPLES
THAT BIND US TO
THE PROPHECIES?

SHE'S... SHE'S
JUST A CHILD,
FATHER.

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD
US ABOUT THIS ANOMALY
WHEN SHE WAS BORN!

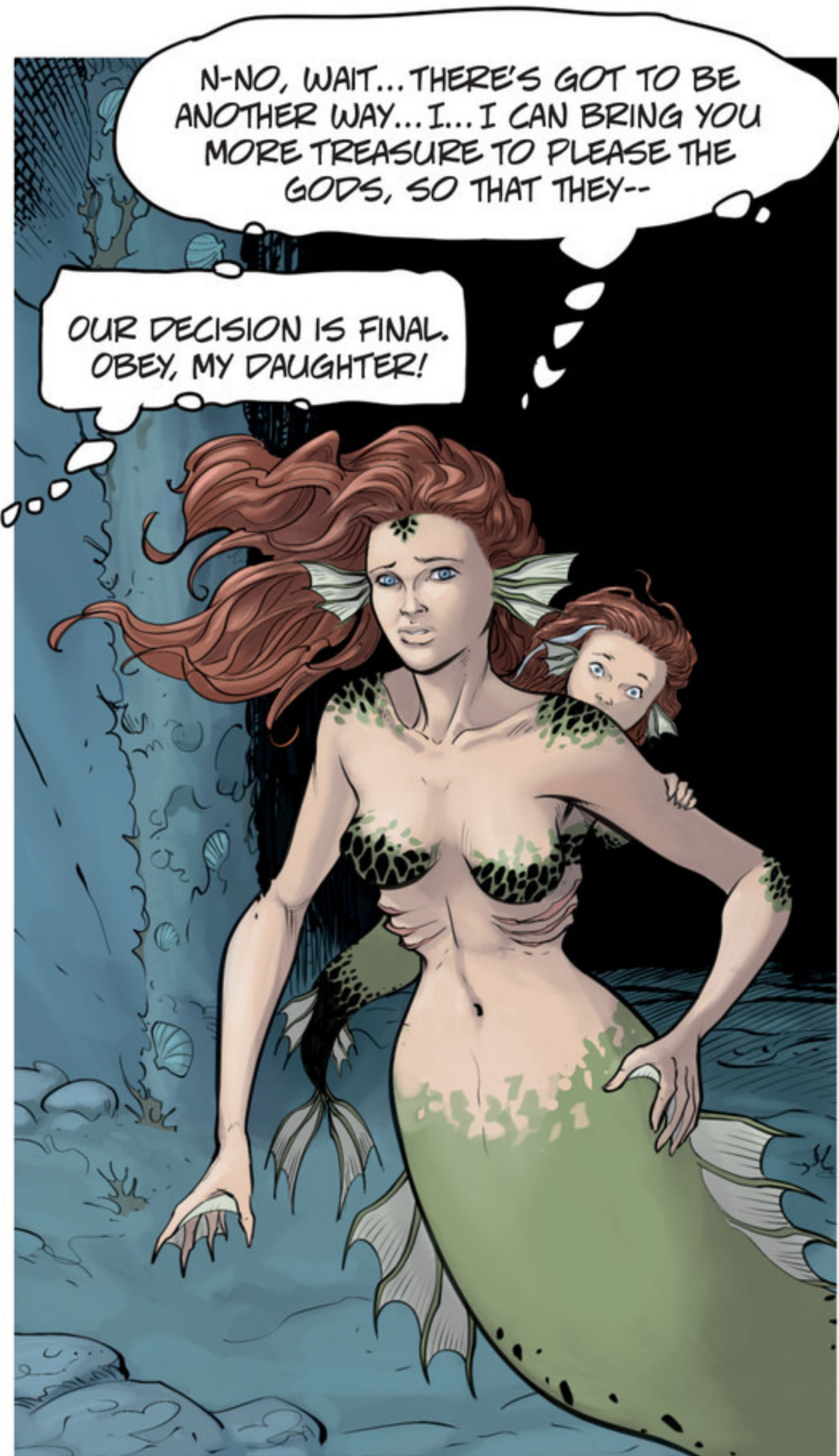
IT'S ONLY A
STRAND OF HAIR,
I NEVER THOUGHT--

AND YET, THE PROPHECY IS FORMAL--A
SIREN WITH A NACRE-COLORED STRAND
OF HAIR WILL BRING ABOUT
THE EXTINCTION OF HER RACE...

IS THIS WHAT
YOU WANT,
HEFRING?

OF COURSE
NOT.

VERY WELL, THEN. WE'LL
DECIDE ON YOUR PUNISHMENT
LATER. IN THE MEANTIME,
THE CHILD MUST DIE.



N-NO, WAIT... THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY... I... I CAN BRING YOU MORE TREASURE TO PLEASE THE GODS, SO THAT THEY--

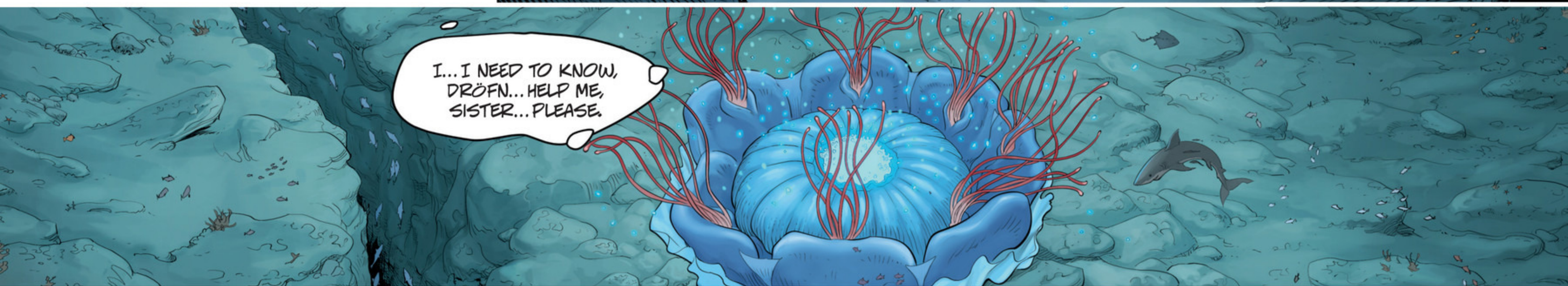
OUR DECISION IS FINAL. OBEY, MY DAUGHTER!



NEVER!



HEFRING, GET BACK HERE!



I... I NEED TO KNOW, DRÖFN... HELP ME, SISTER... PLEASE.



I'M SORRY, HEFRING... HER DESTINY IS STREWN WITH CHAOS AND DESOLATION... WHAT RÁN SAW IS TRUE...

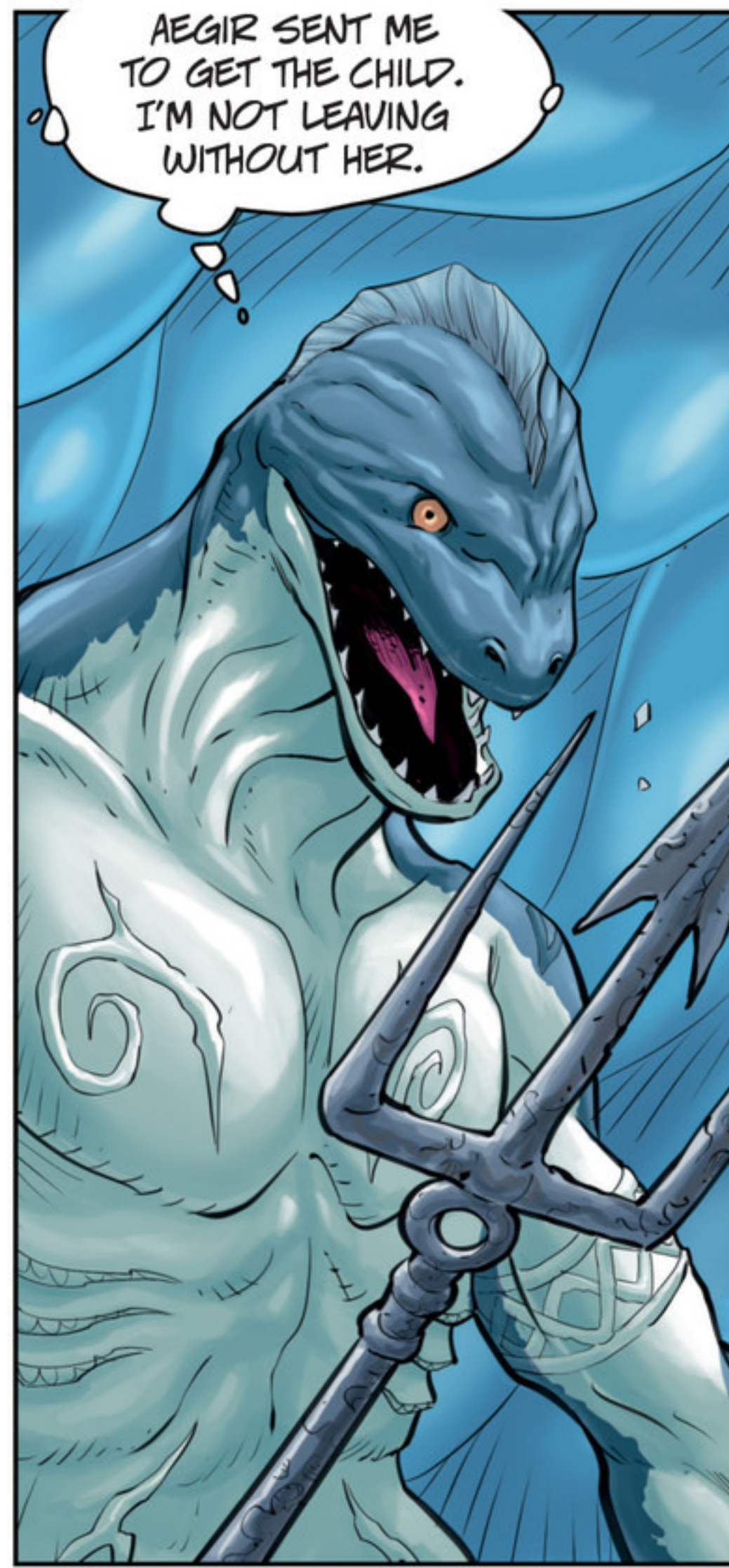


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I... I DON'T KNOW. BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO KILL HER...



IN THAT CASE, I'LL DO IT!

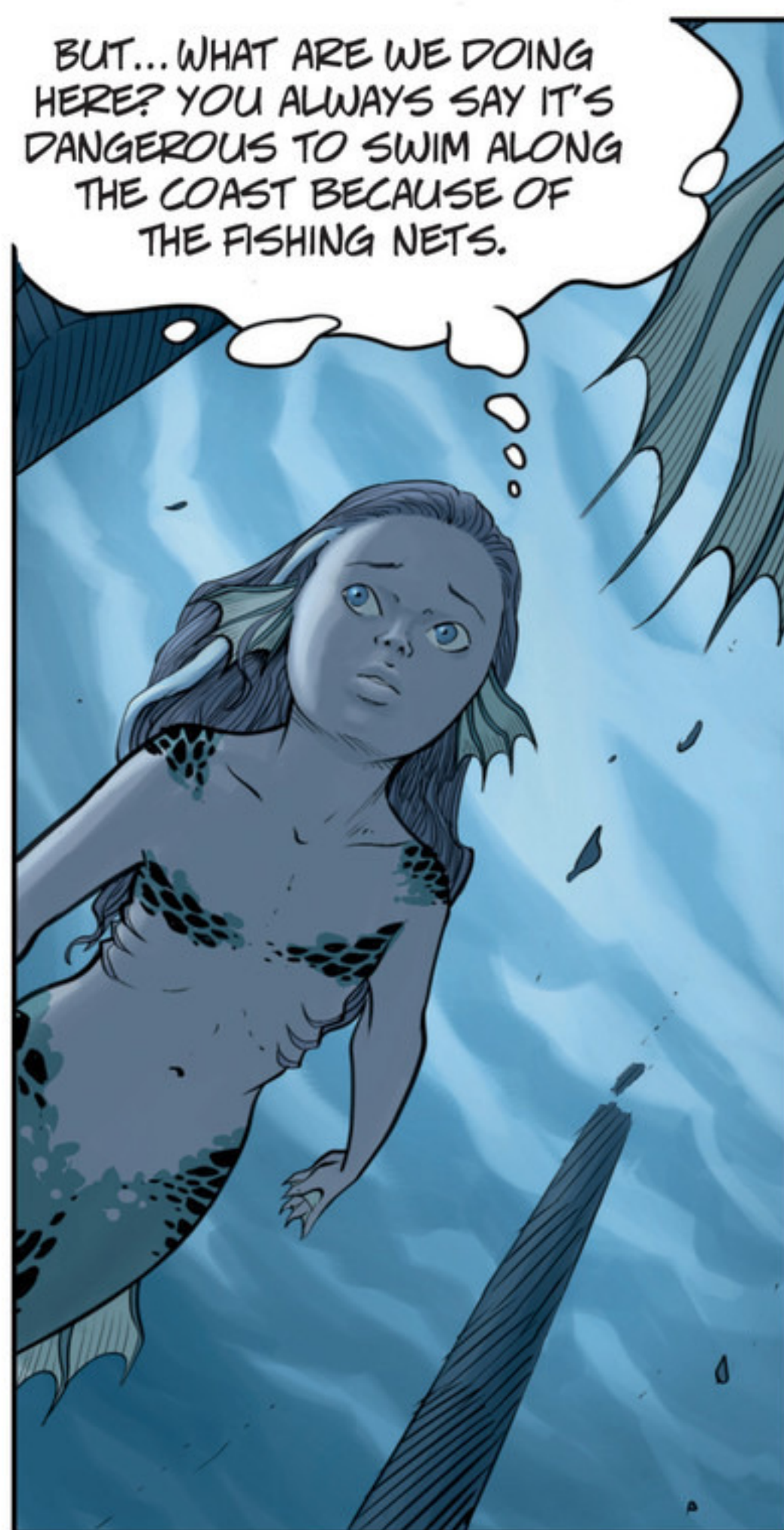




WHERE ARE WE...?



FAR FROM HOME, IN NORSE TERRITORY.



BUT... WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? YOU ALWAYS SAY IT'S DANGEROUS TO SWIM ALONG THE COAST BECAUSE OF THE FISHING NETS.

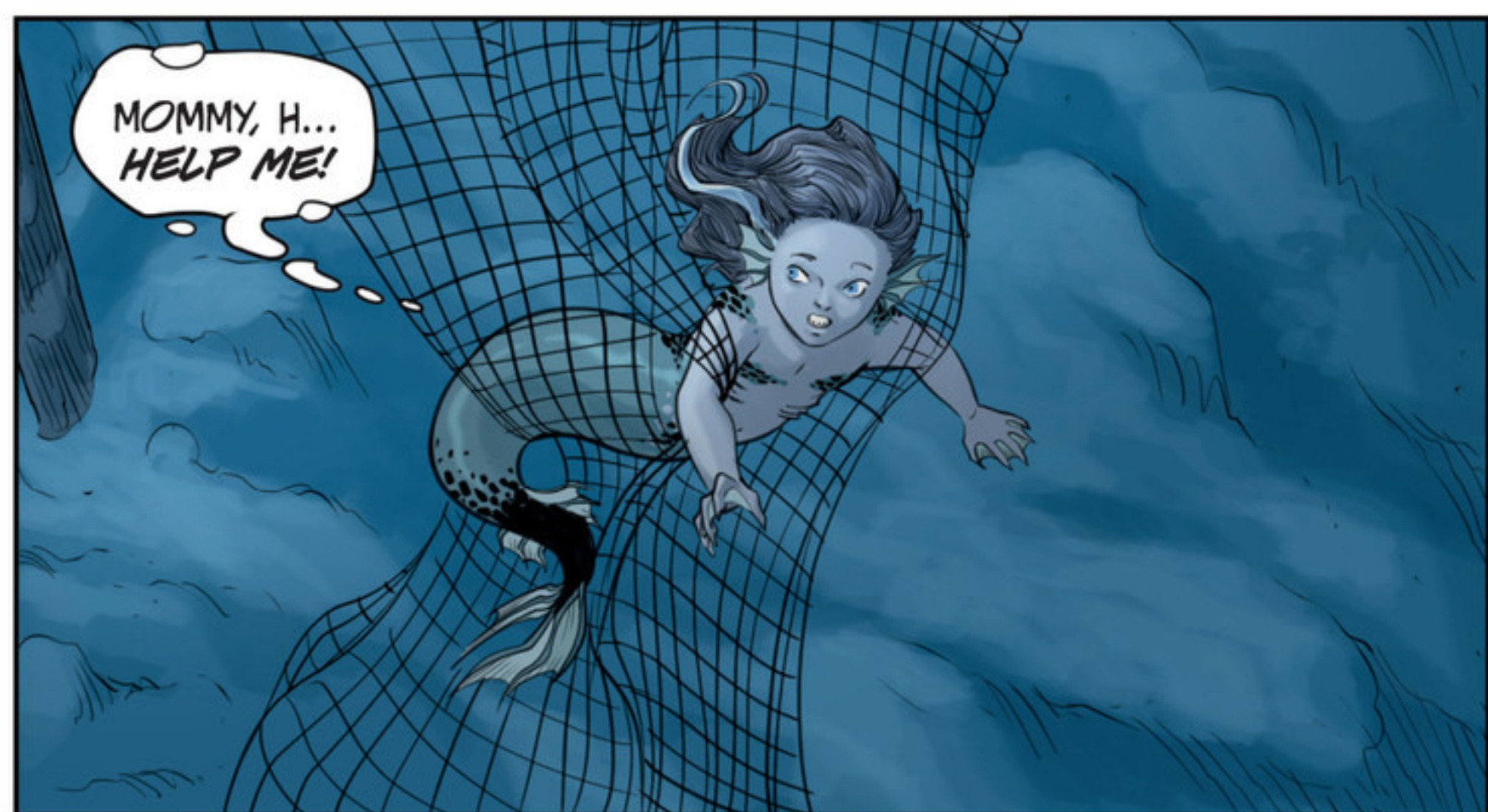


HURRY UP AND STOP ASKING QUESTIONS!

O-O-KAY, MOMMY... SORRY.



ARGH!



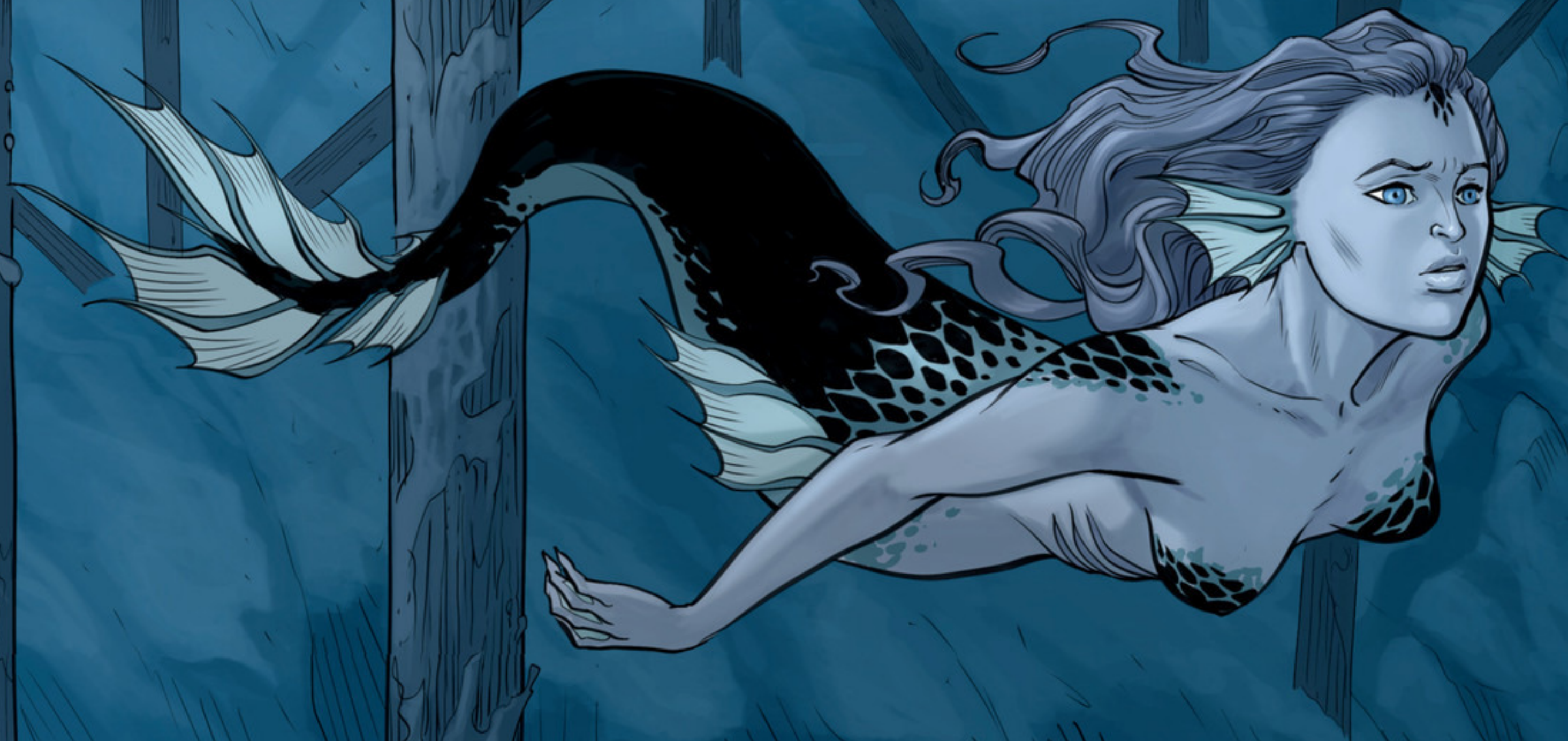
MOMMY, H... HELP ME!



M-MOMMY? I... I'M STUCK.

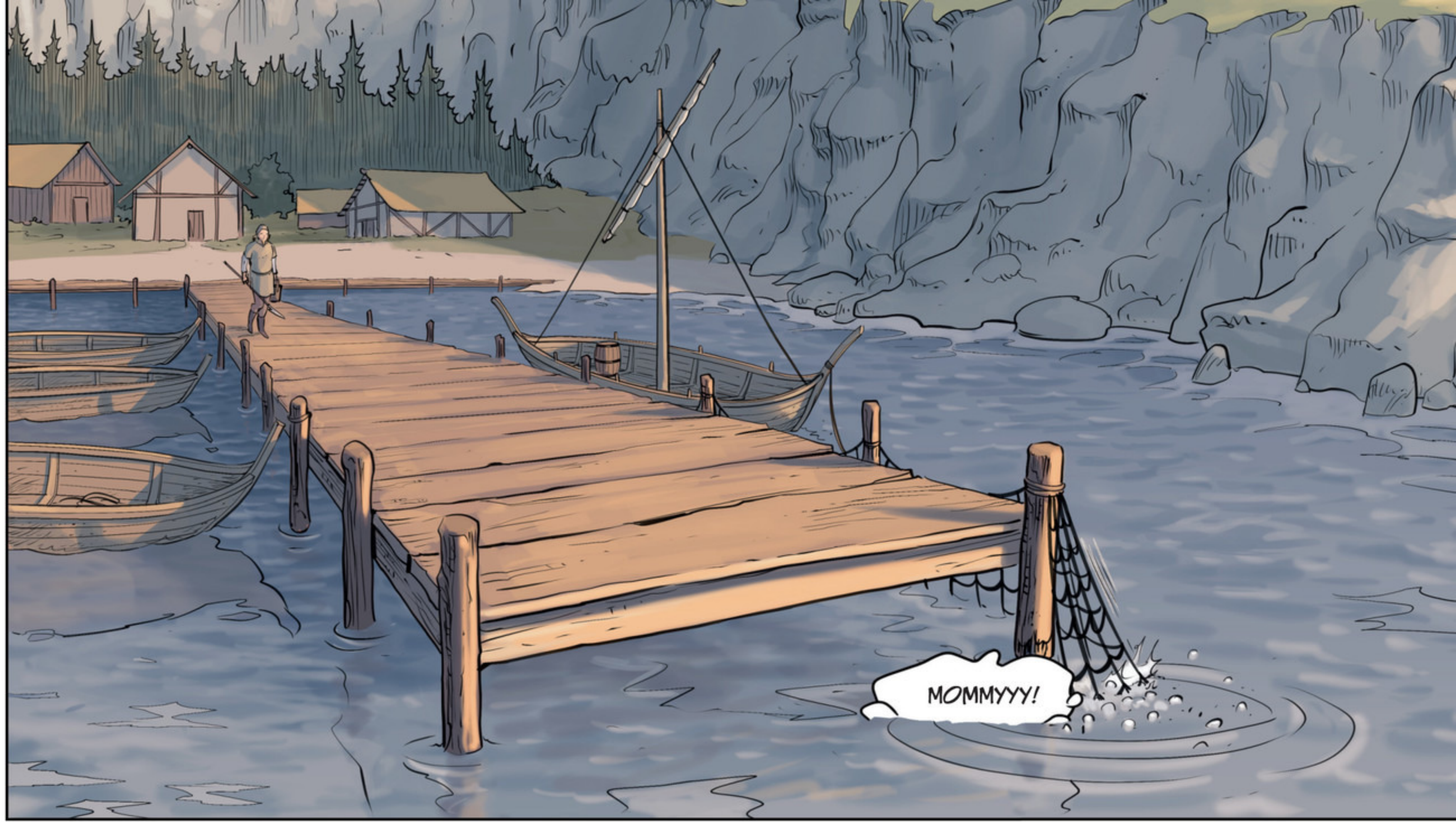


MOMMYYYYYYYY!





M-MOMMY...
N-NO... WHY?



MOMMYYY!



WHAT THE...?!



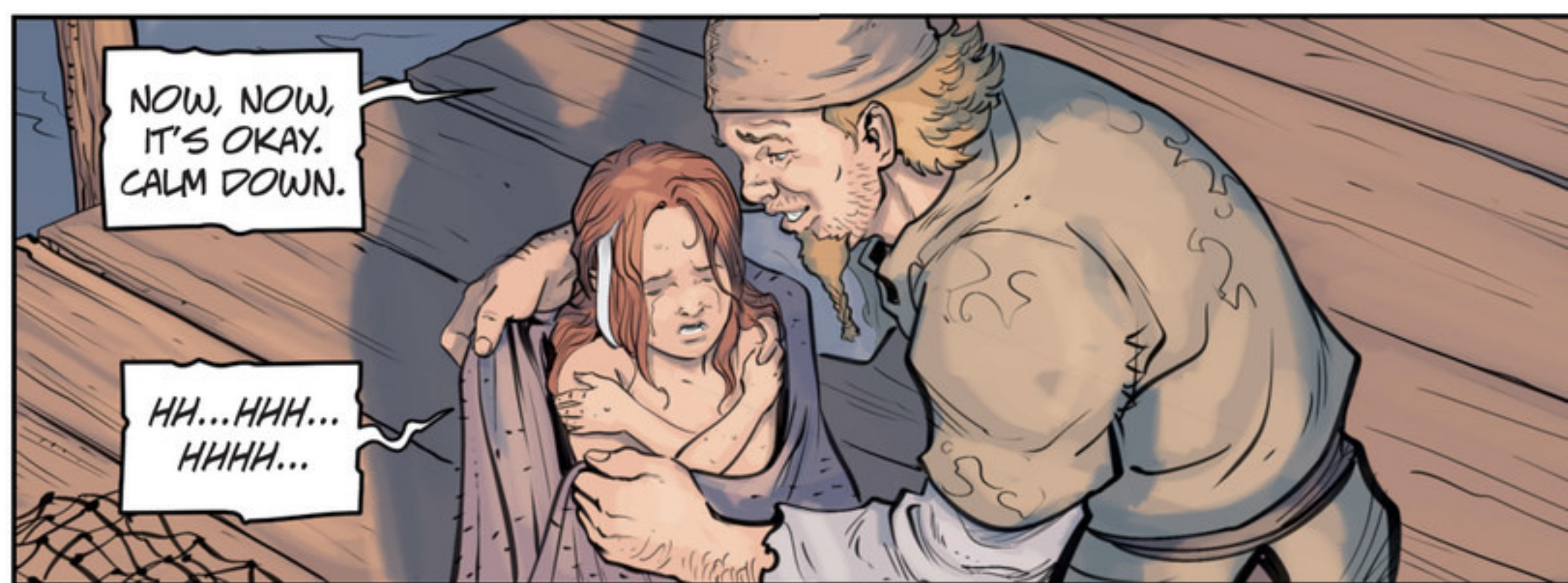
IS... IS SOMEONE
DOWN THERE?



A... A NORSE,
MAYBE HE...

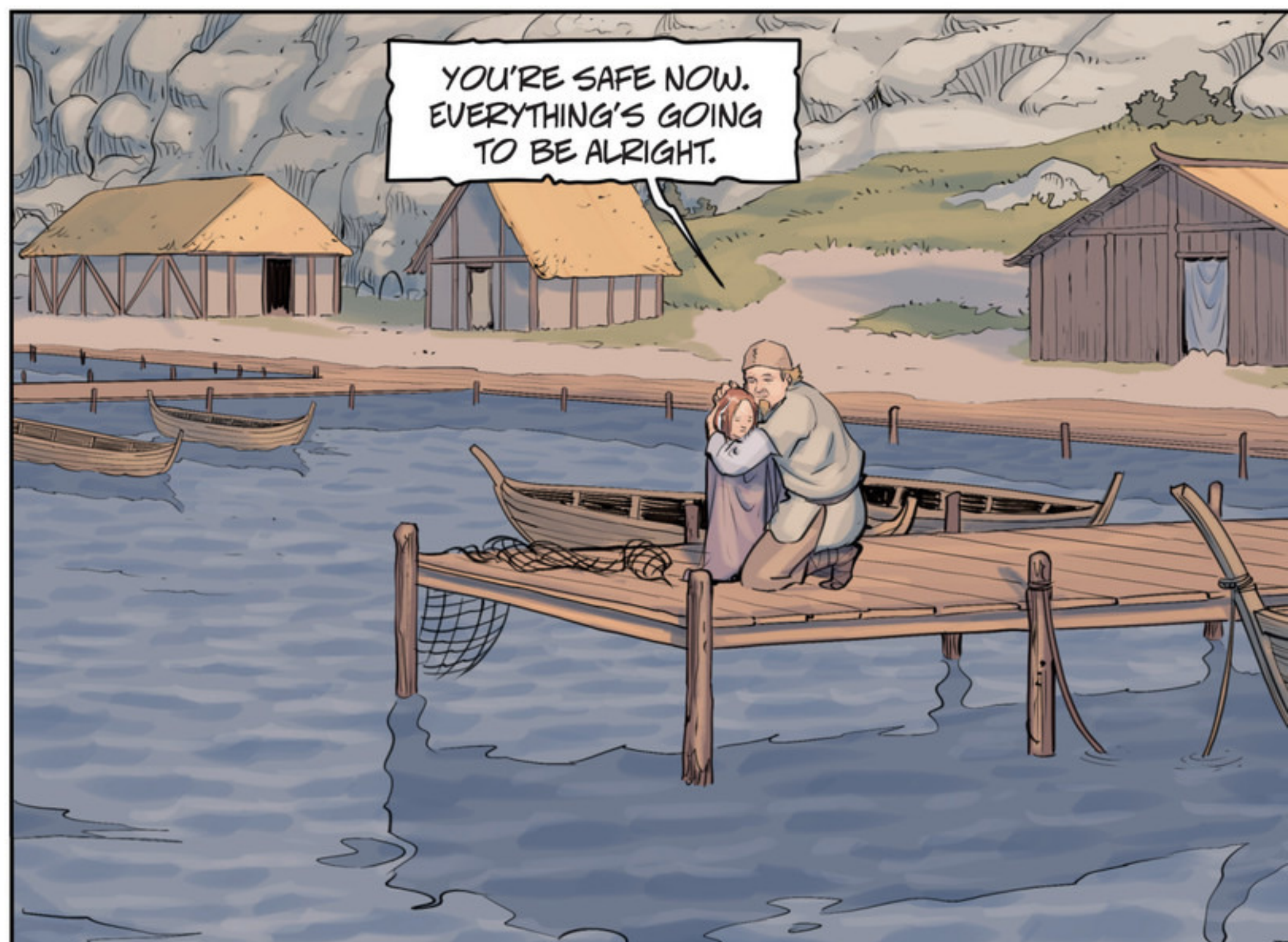
H-HELP ME!

BY NJÖRD'S BEARD,
WHAT... WHAT WERE YOU
DOING DOWN THERE?
YOU COULD'VE DROWNED!



NOW, NOW,
IT'S OKAY.
CALM DOWN.

HH...HHH...
HHHH...



YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
EVERYTHING'S GOING
TO BE ALRIGHT.



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HER, REIDOLF? WHAT IF THE VILLAGE FINDS OUT THAT SHE... THAT SHE'S NOT LIKE US?

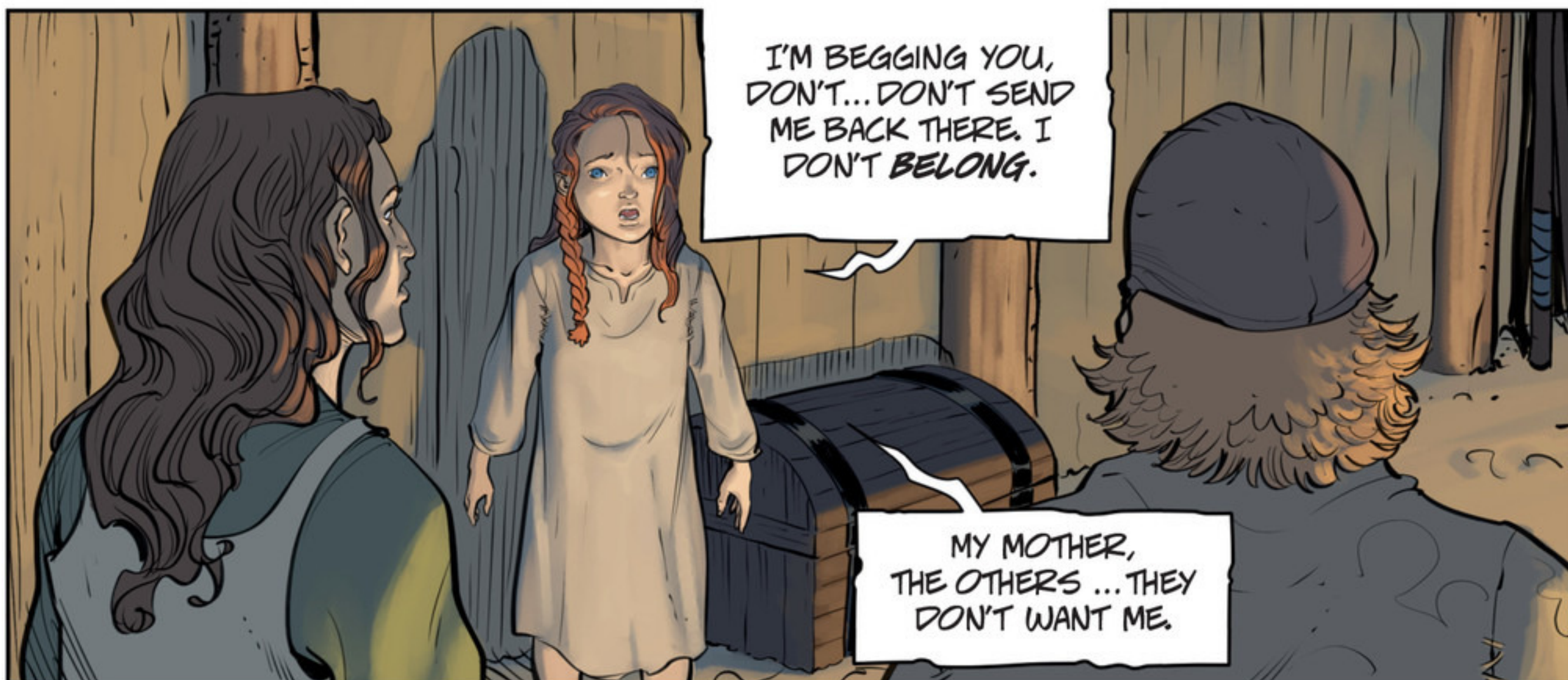


I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT SEEMS AS THOUGH IT WAS THE **SWIMMING** THAT RENEWED HER. I THINK SHE NEEDS **WATER** IN ORDER TO SURVIVE IN THE OPEN AIR.



IN ANY CASE, SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE. IF HER KIND ARE HUNTING FOR HER, THEN WE'RE PUTTING OUR COMMUNITY AT RISK. MAYBE WE SHOULD CONSIDER RETURNING HER TO THE OCEAN WHERE I FOUND--

NO!



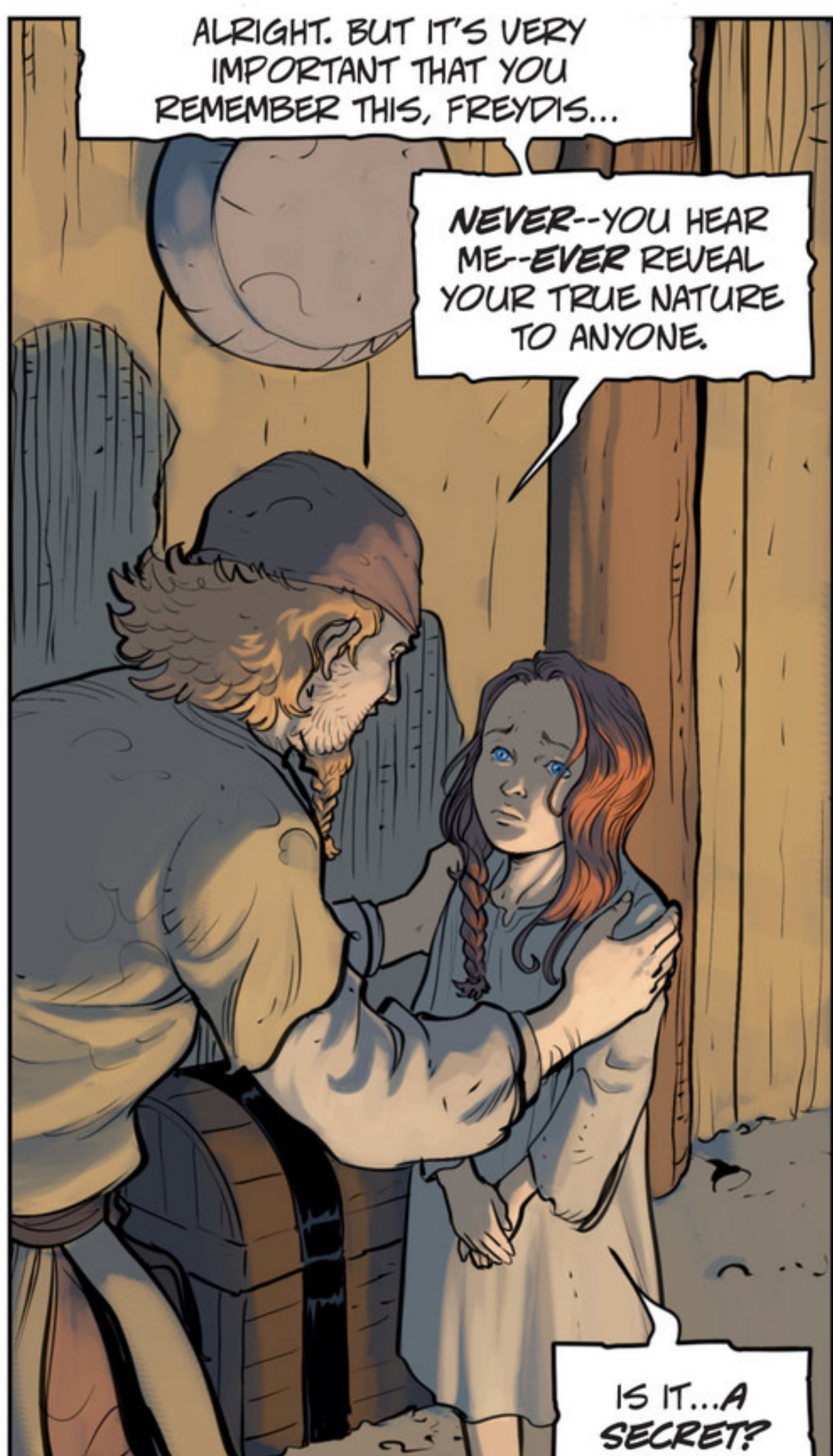
I'M BEGGING YOU, DON'T... DON'T SEND ME BACK THERE. I DON'T **BELONG**.

MY MOTHER, THE OTHERS ... THEY DON'T WANT ME.



PLEASE, LET ME STAY WITH YOU...

REIDOLF, LISTEN TO HER...



ALRIGHT. BUT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU REMEMBER THIS, FREYDIS...

NEVER--YOU HEAR ME--EVER REVEAL YOUR TRUE NATURE TO ANYONE.

IS IT...A SECRET?



IT WILL KEEP YOU **SAFE**. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU MUST **NEVER** GIVE ANYONE CAUSE TO SUSPECT THAT YOU'RE... DIFFERENT.

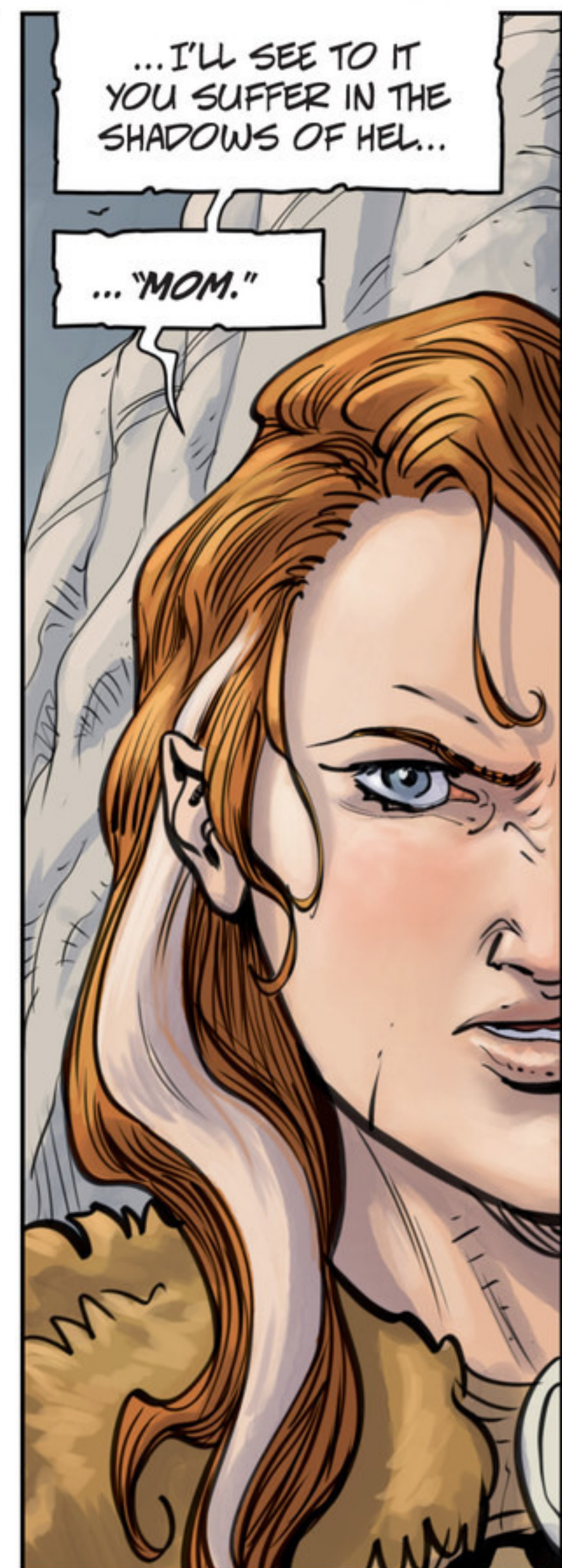


FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER YOU NEED TO SWIM, YOU WILL DO SO AT NIGHT, AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF, OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.



PROMISE.

GOOD GIRL.





A FEW DAYS LATER.

...AND THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU, FRIENDS...



...JOIN ME, AND WE'LL SAIL THE SEAS TO ERADICATE THESE MONSTERS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

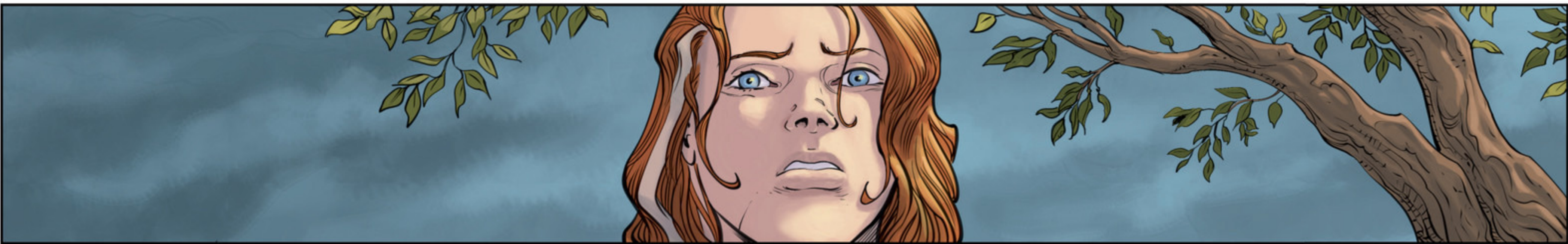


MERMAIDS...
HAHAHA...

HA HA HA HA
HA HA!

...WHO TURN INTO WOMEN?

SHE'S INSANE.



AND TOGETHER WE CAN PUT AN END TO THIS REIGN OF TERROR AND BE ABLE TO SAIL AGAIN WITHOUT FEAR!



BOOOO

ATTACK THE HAVRUES? YOU'RE INSANE, WOMAN!

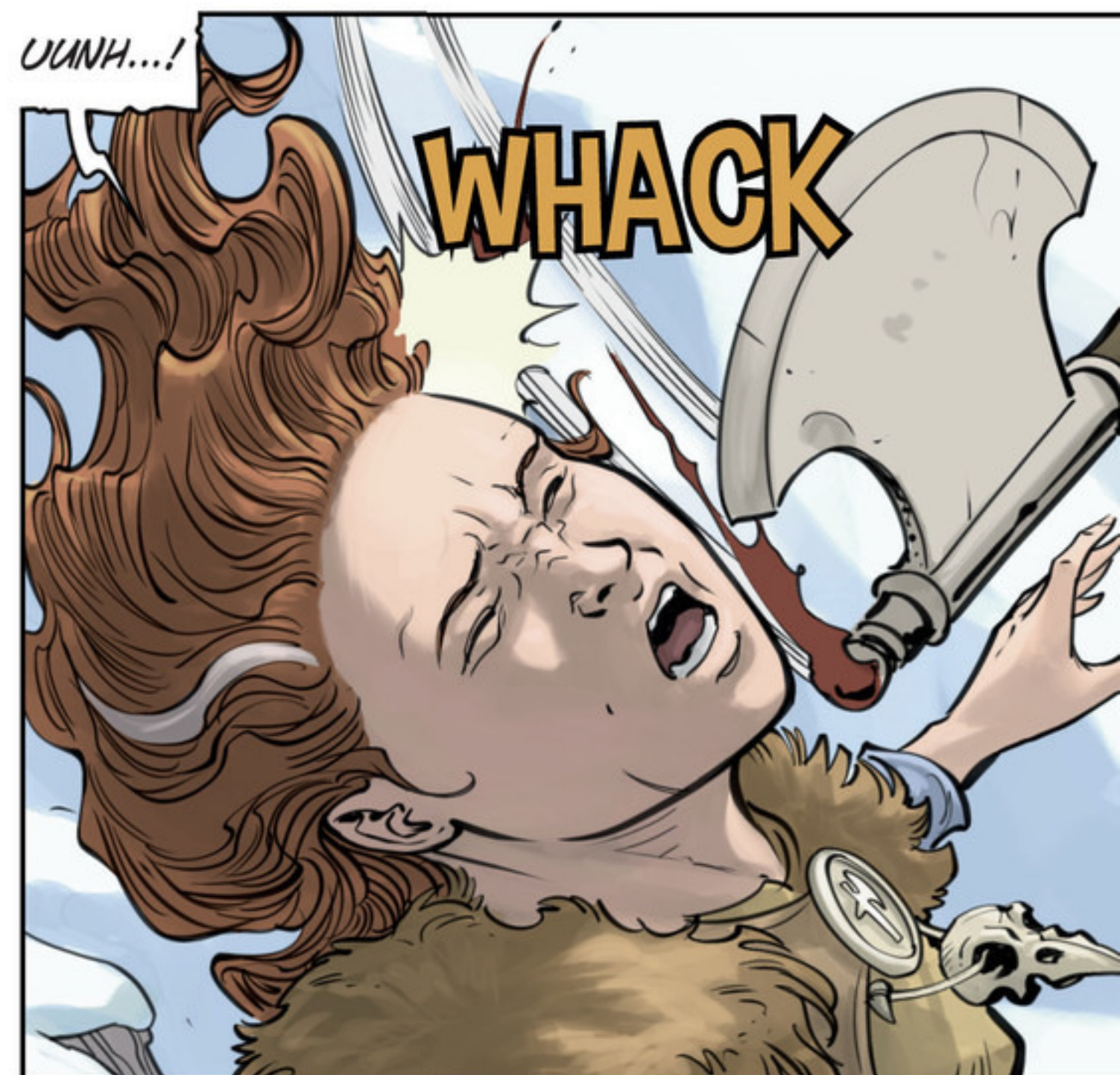
WHY NOT STORM JOTUNHEIM WHILE WE'RE AT IT?

GET LOST, YOU LUNATIC!





AHOOOOOWOOOOAWAWAooooo

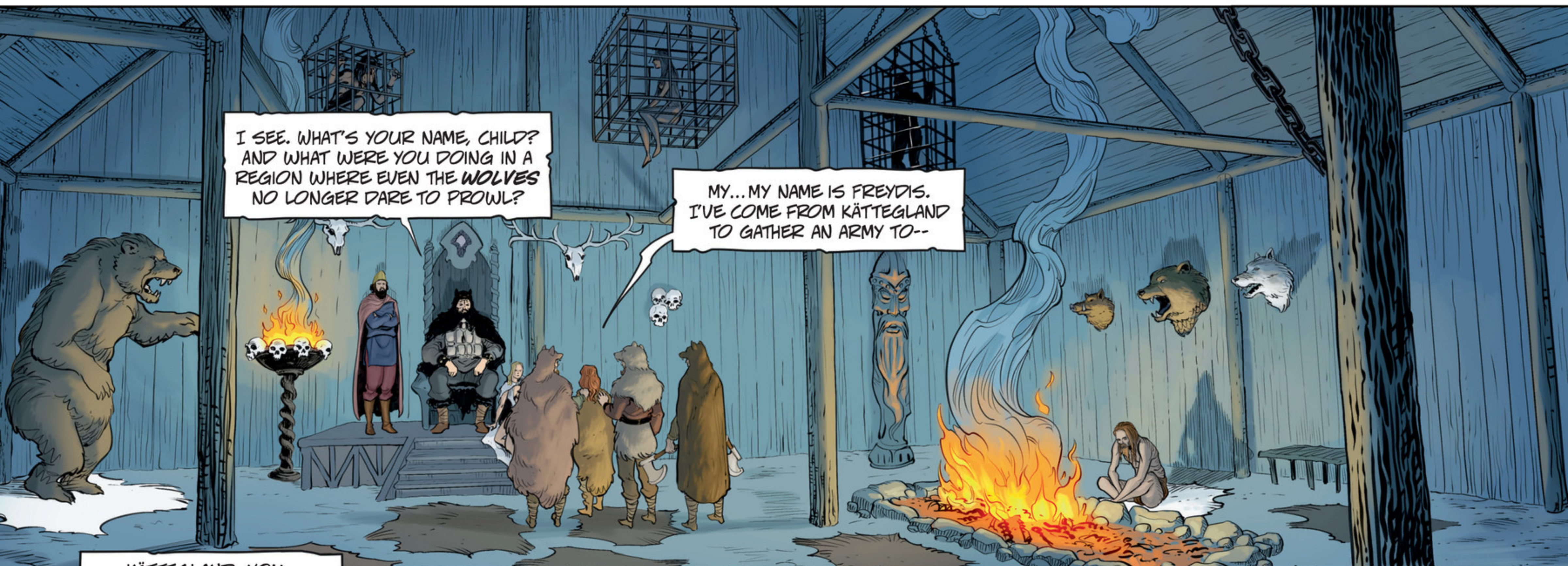




SOMEWHERE IN
THE SCANDES.

WHO IS THIS RAVISHING
YOUNG GIRL YOU
BRING ME, BOTOW?

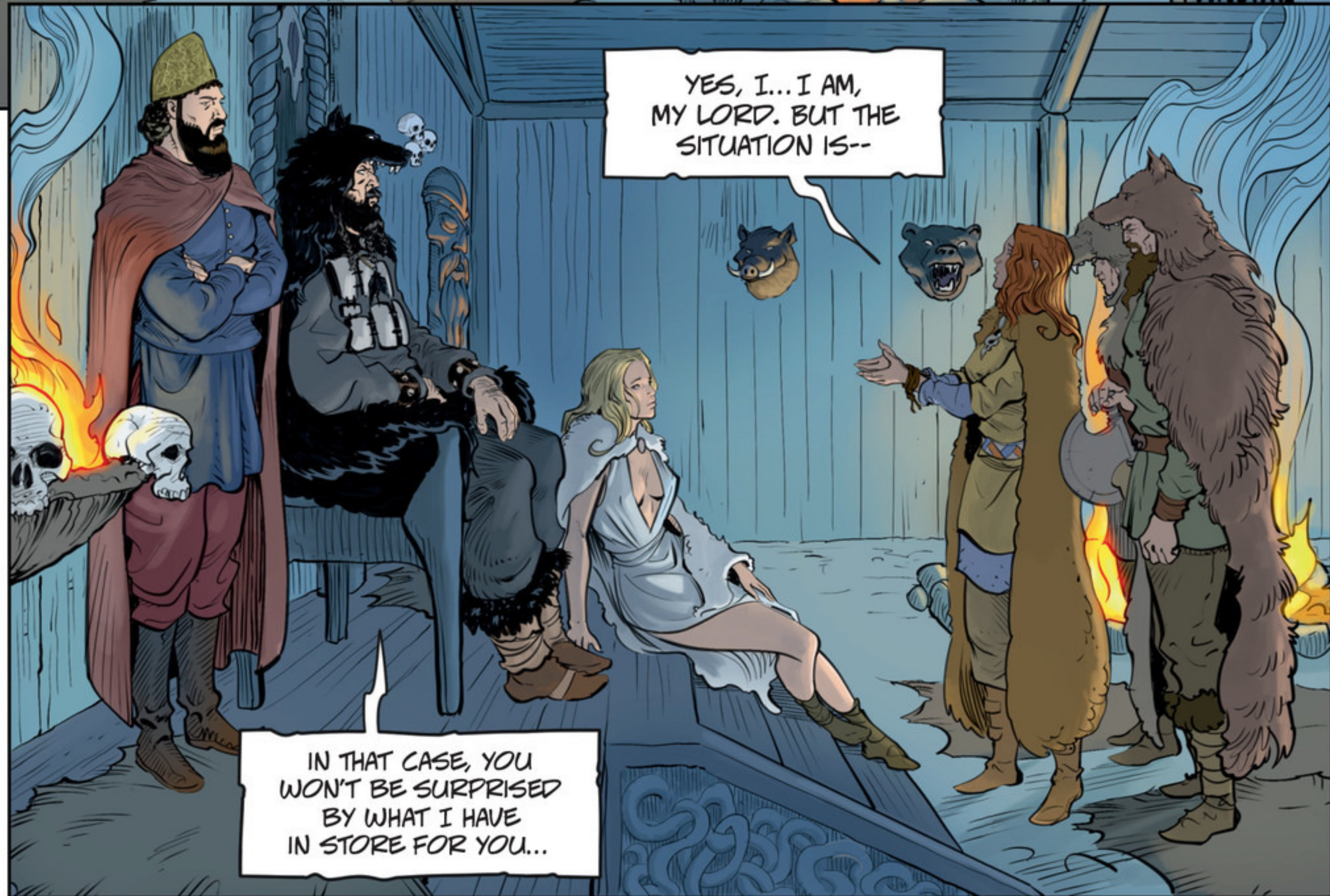
A RECKLESS TRAVELER
WHO WAS CROSSING YOUR
LAND, LORD GUNTER.



I SEE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, CHILD?
AND WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN A
REGION WHERE EVEN THE *WOLVES*
NO LONGER DARE TO PROWL?

MY...MY NAME IS FREYDIS.
I'VE COME FROM KÄTEGLAND
TO GATHER AN ARMY TO--

KÄTEGLAND, YOU
SAY?! YOU'RE A LONG WAY
FROM HOME, YOU LITTLE
BRAT. ARE YOU NOT AWARE
THAT MY HALF-BROTHER
LOTHAR'S SUBJECTS ARE
UNWELCOME HERE?



YES, I... I AM,
MY LORD. BUT THE
SITUATION IS--

IN THAT CASE, YOU
WON'T BE SURPRISED
BY WHAT I HAVE
IN STORE FOR YOU...



BOTOW! TAKE HER TO THE DUNGEON.
SHE'LL ENTERTAIN OUR TROOPS UNTIL
SHE'S WORN OUT, THEN WE'LL SEND
HER BATTERED BODY BACK TO HER
VILLAGE TO DISCOURAGE ANYONE
ELSE FROM SPYING ON OUR LAND.



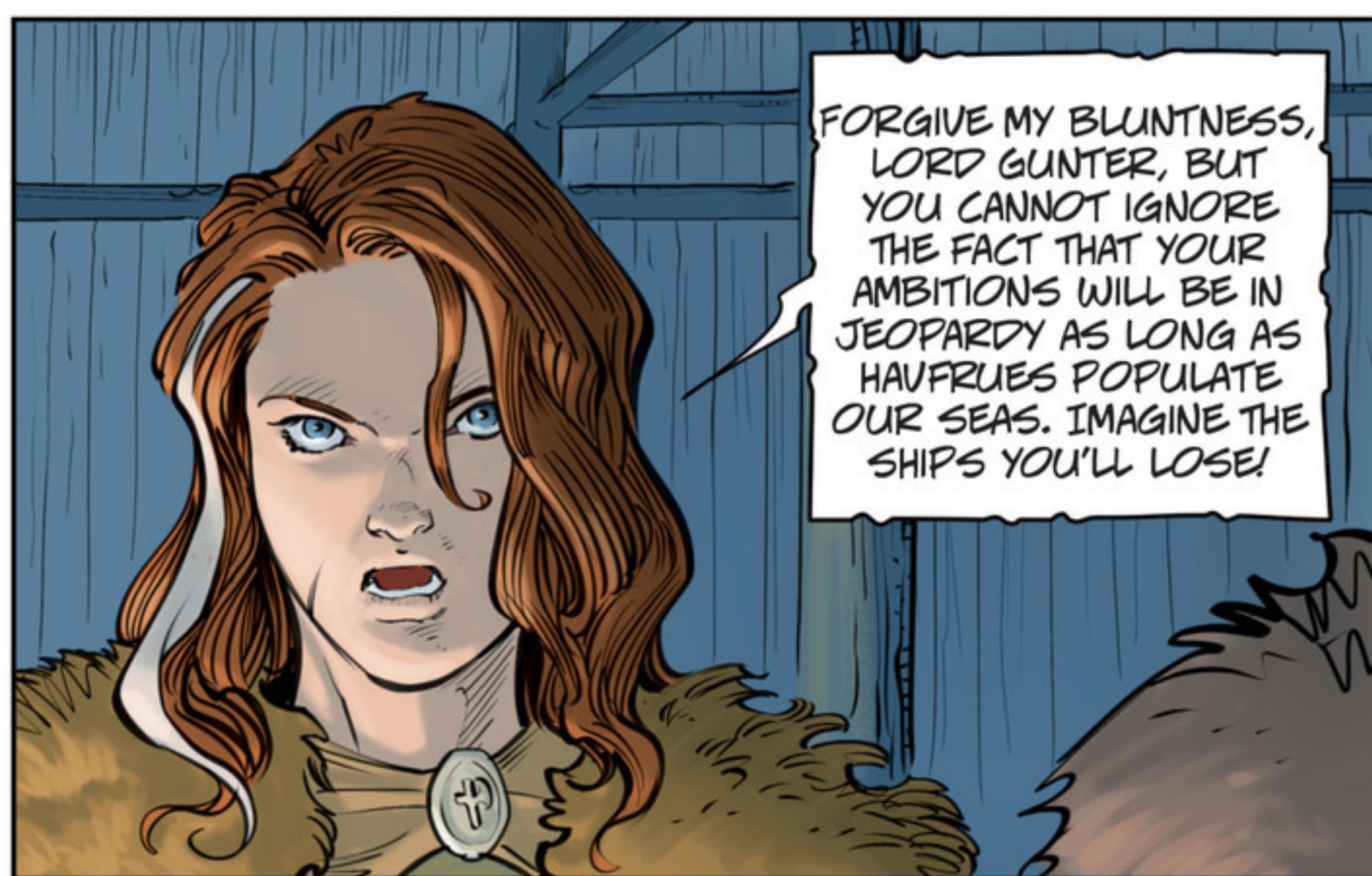
NO, WAIT! I DIDN'T COME
HERE TO SPY ON YOU, I SWEAR!
KÄTEGLAND WAS COMPLETELY
WIPE OUT BY AN ARMY OF...
OF *SIRENS*, AND--



HE BELIEVES THAT THE PORT OF KÄTTEGLAND'S STRATEGIC LOCATION WOULD ALLOW ME TO DEPLOY MY FLEET ACROSS THE SEAS AND GET RICH IN MERE MONTHS.



THIS IDIOT LOTHAR NEVER FIGURED OUT THAT STRANDHOGGS YIELD MUCH MORE THAN SMALL LOCAL BUSINESSES.



MOVE IT! IF THERE ARE ANY HAVFRUES ON THIS ISLAND, I WANT TO SEE THEIR HEADS STUCK AT THE END OF A HARPOON BEFORE SUNSET!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING BACK TO KÄTTEGLAND WITH MY BRIDE-TO-BE AND TAKING OVER MY BROTHER'S VILLAGE WITHOUT BETRAYING THAT STUPID PROMISE TO OUR MOTHER.

AND THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR WEDDING NIGHT.

HAHAHAHA! COME ON, CHILD, DON'T MAKE THAT FACE. THAT'S **NEGOTIATION**--ONE PARTY ALWAYS ENDS UP WITH THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

LORD GUNTER? WE SEARCHED EVERY ROCK AND CAVITY ON THIS ISLAND, AND APART FROM A FEW CRABS, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SIGN OF LIFE.

BY FENRIR'S FANGS, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

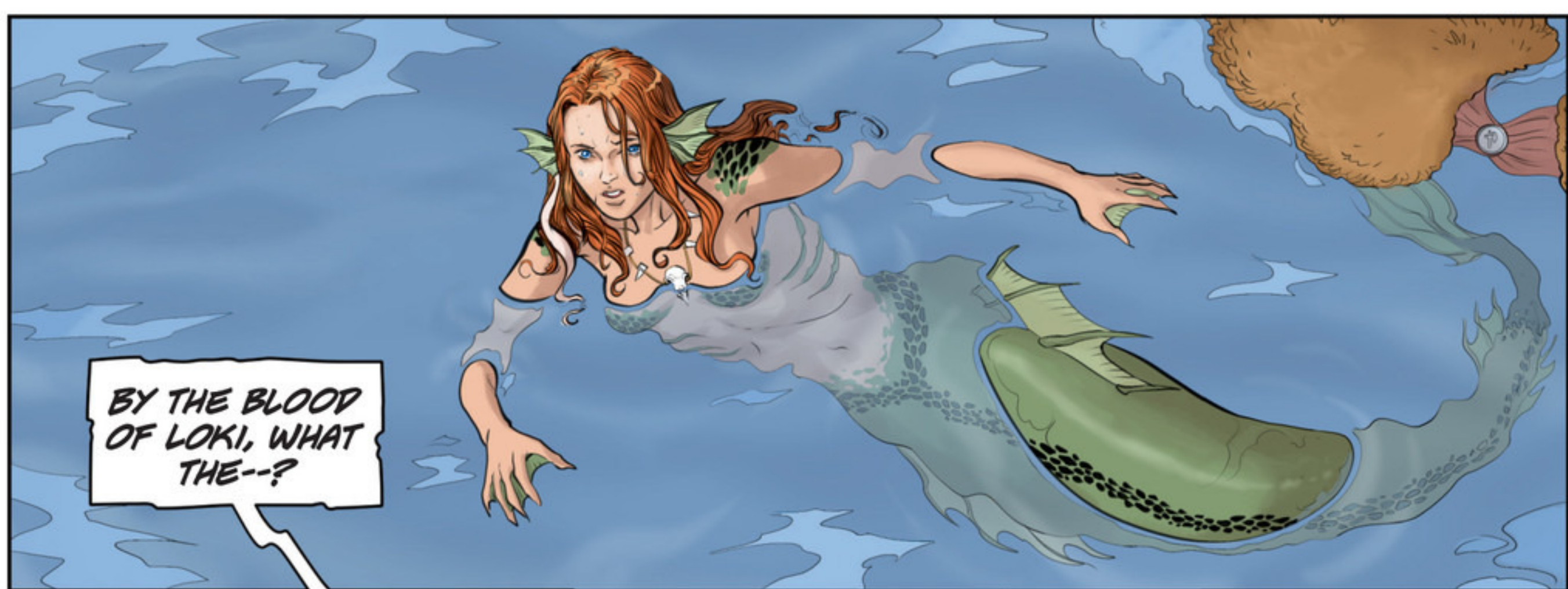
THIS LITTLE WHORE HAS BEEN PLAYING US.

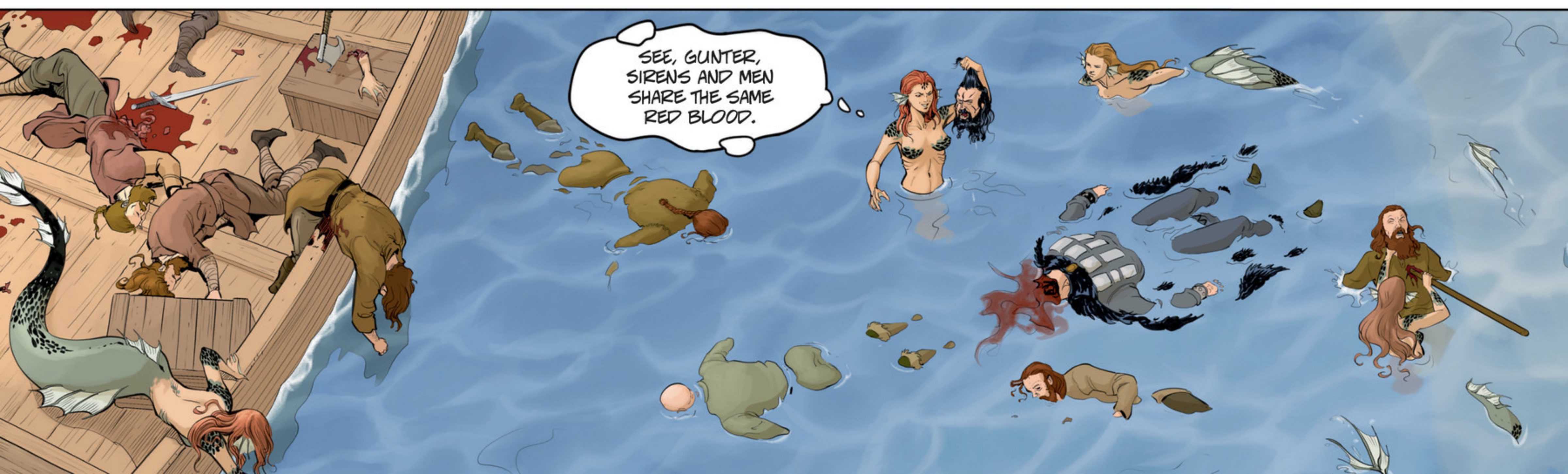
SET COURSE FOR KÄTTEGLAND AT ONCE!

NO!

A DEAL IS VOID IF IT ISN'T HONORED, LORD GUNTER. ARE YOU A MAN WHO BREAKS HIS WORD?

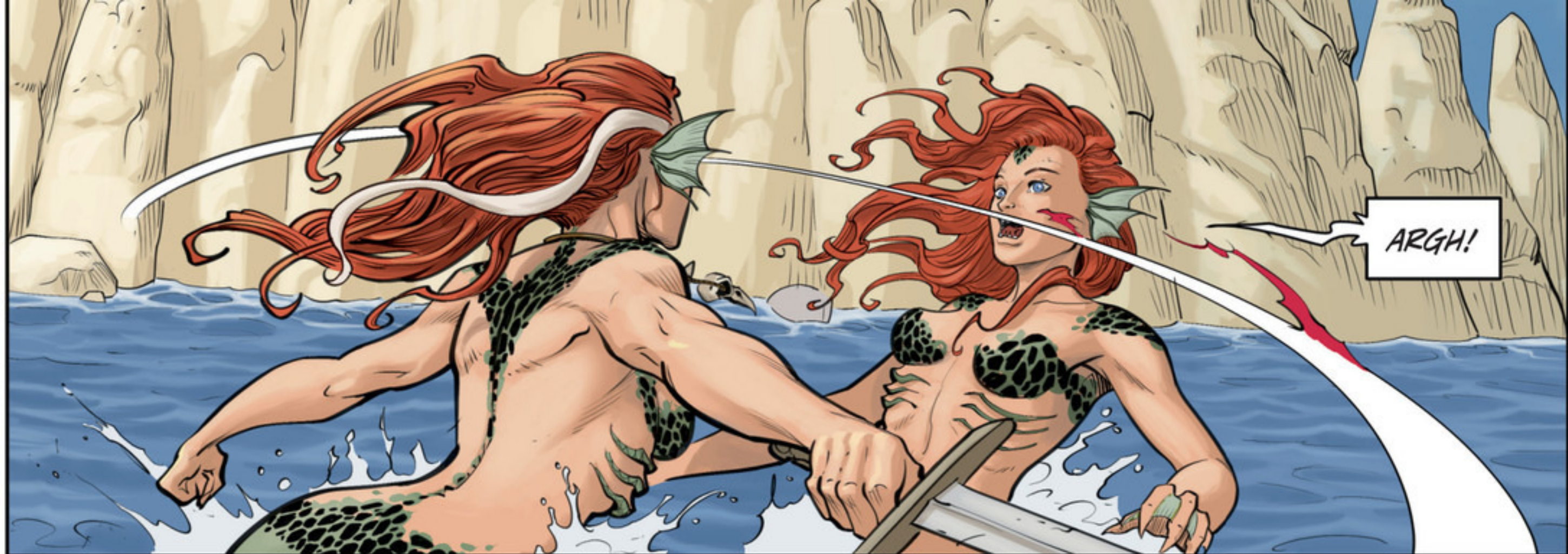
SMACK







AND NOW IT'S YOUR
TURN TO SPILL
YOURS...RAAAH!

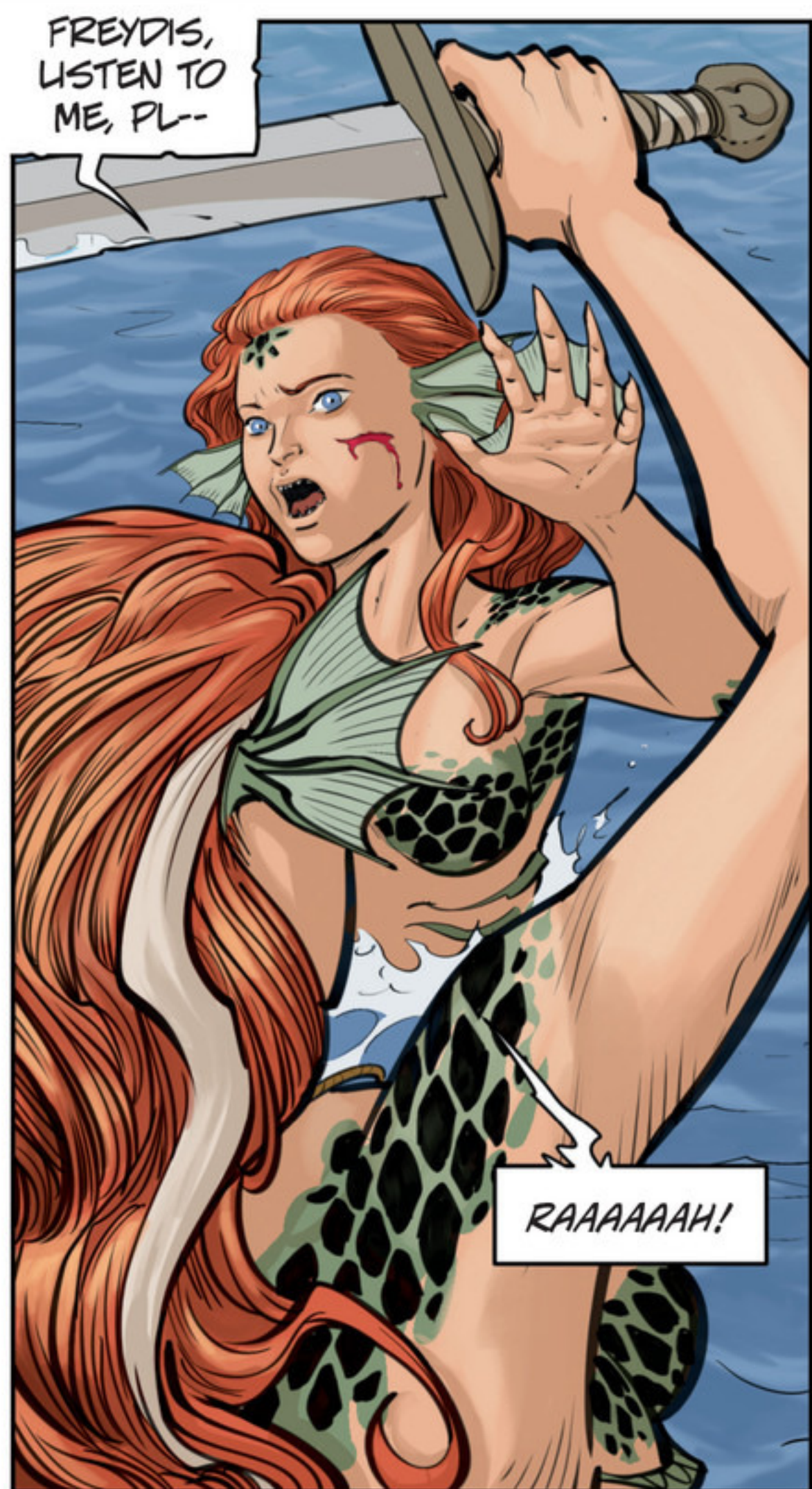


ARGH!



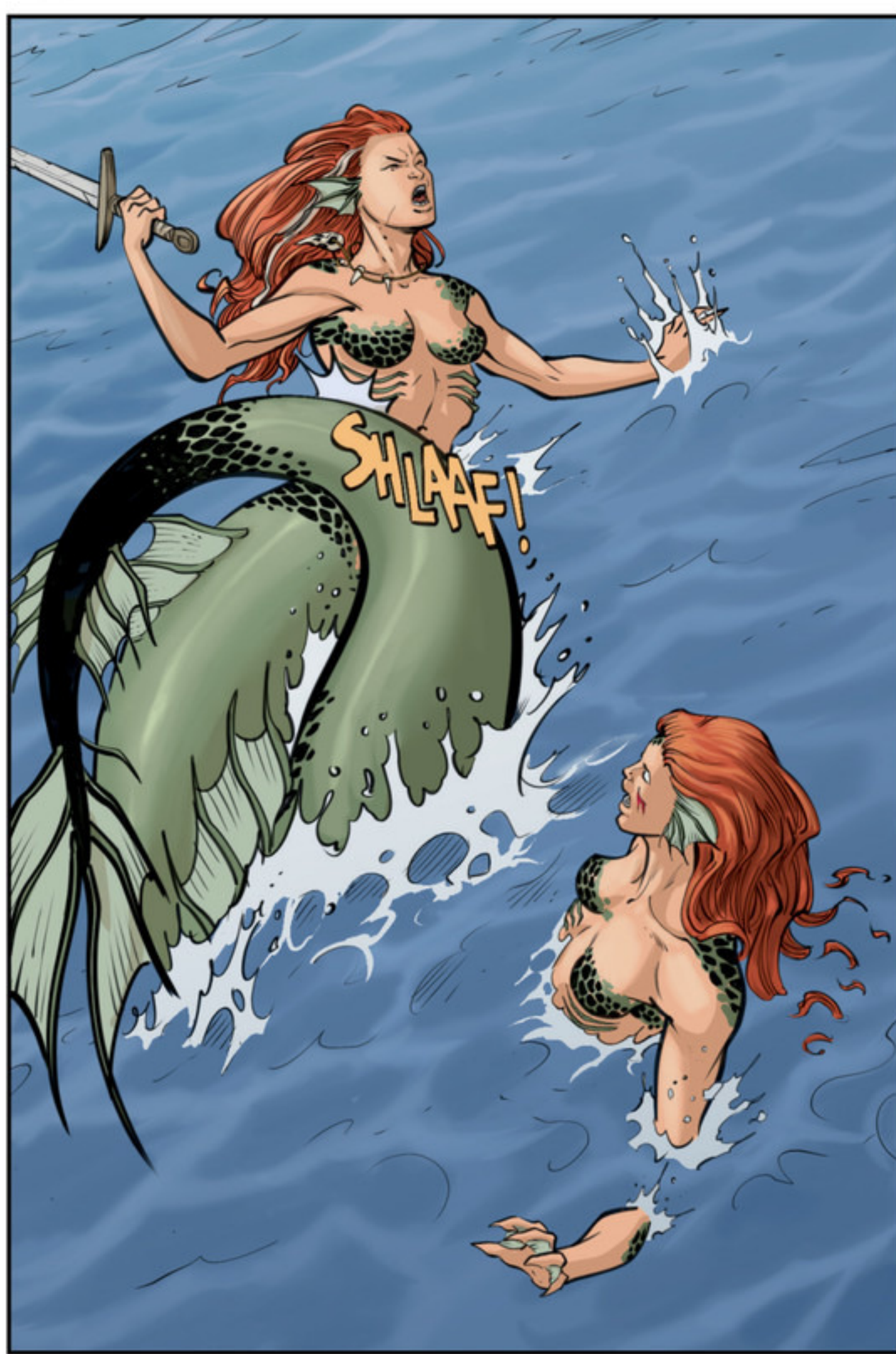
HHHSSSSS!

N-NO! DON'T
HURT HER!



FREYDIS,
LISTEN TO
ME, PL--

RAAAAAAH!

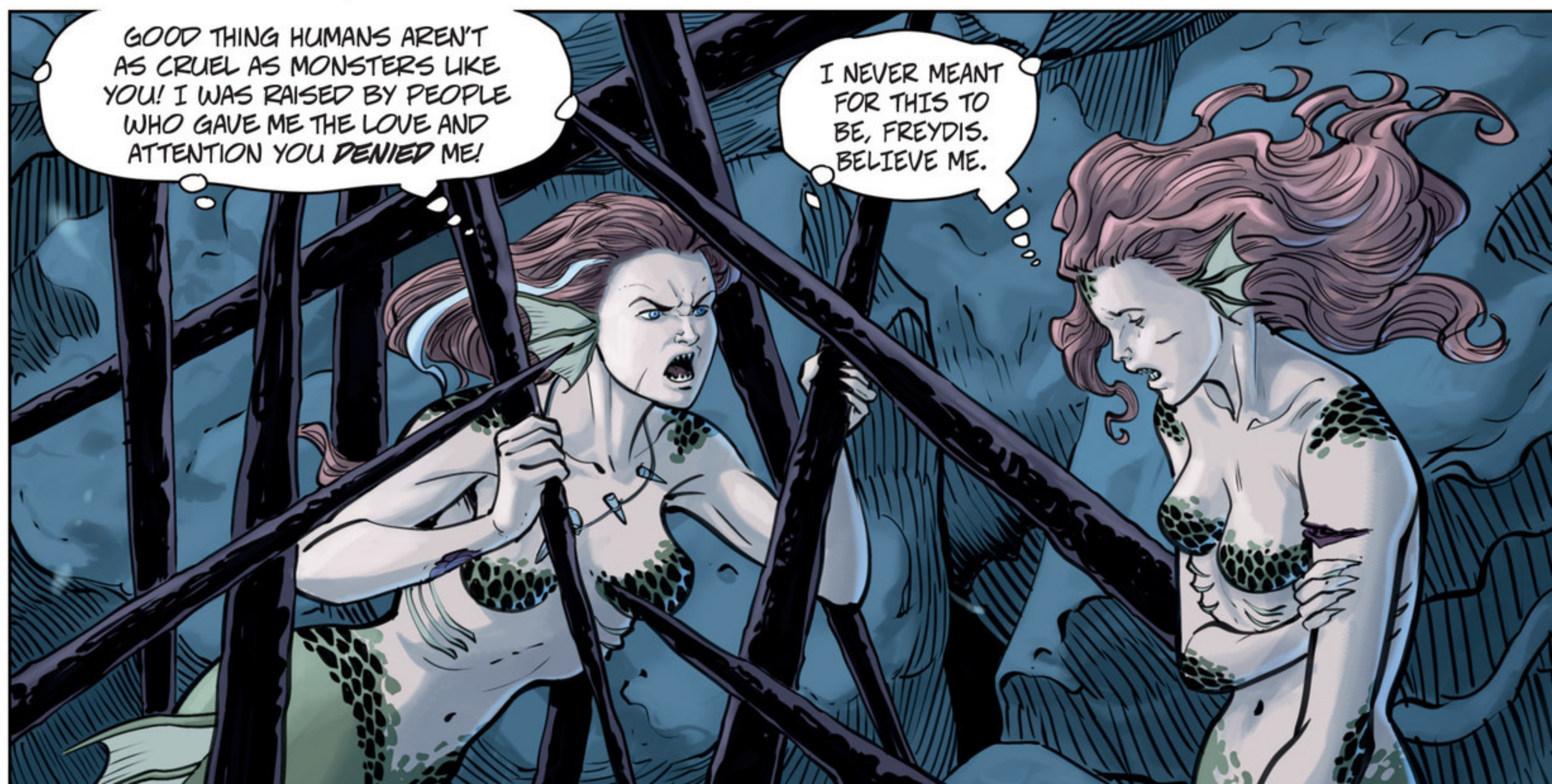
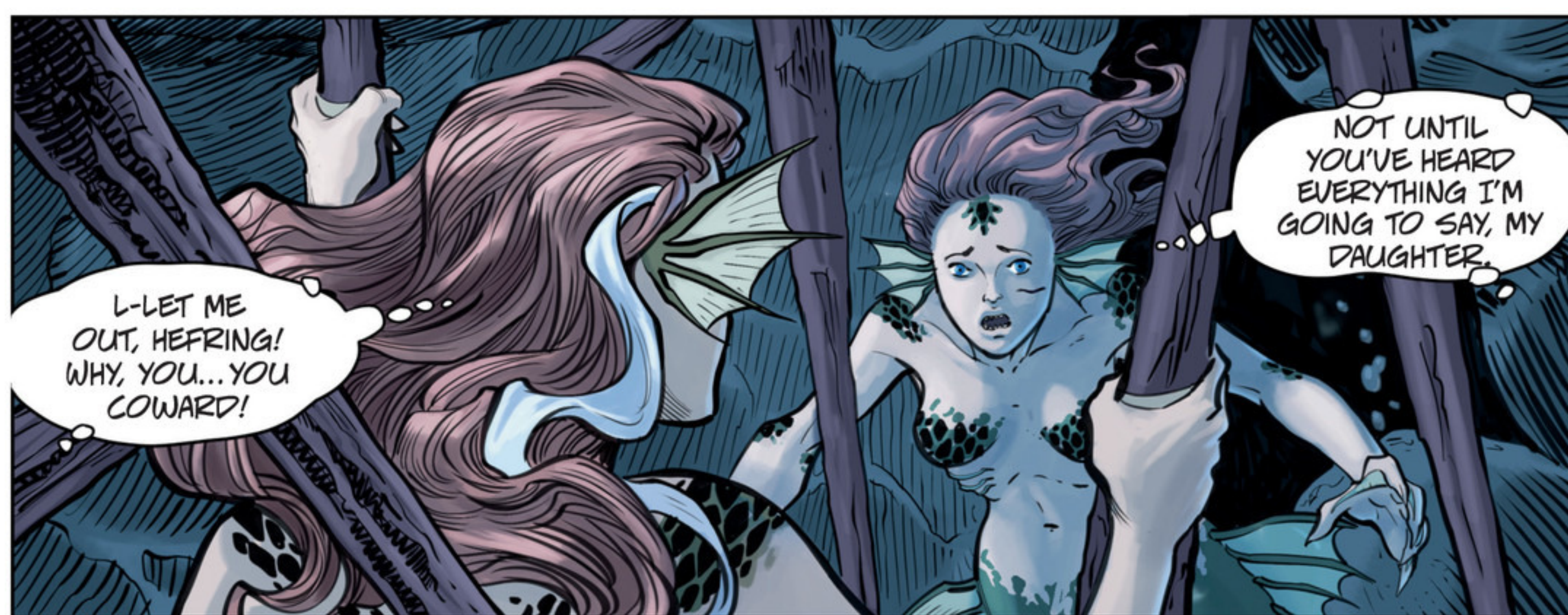


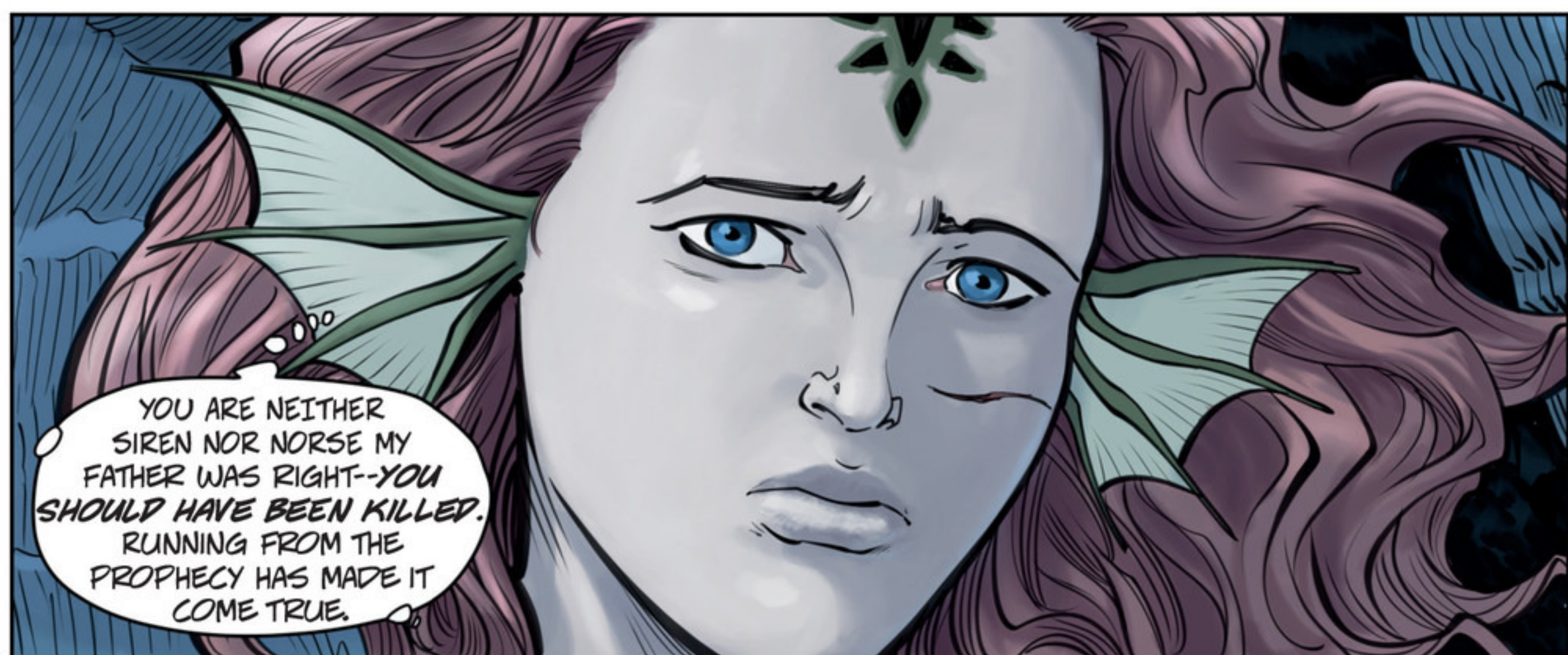
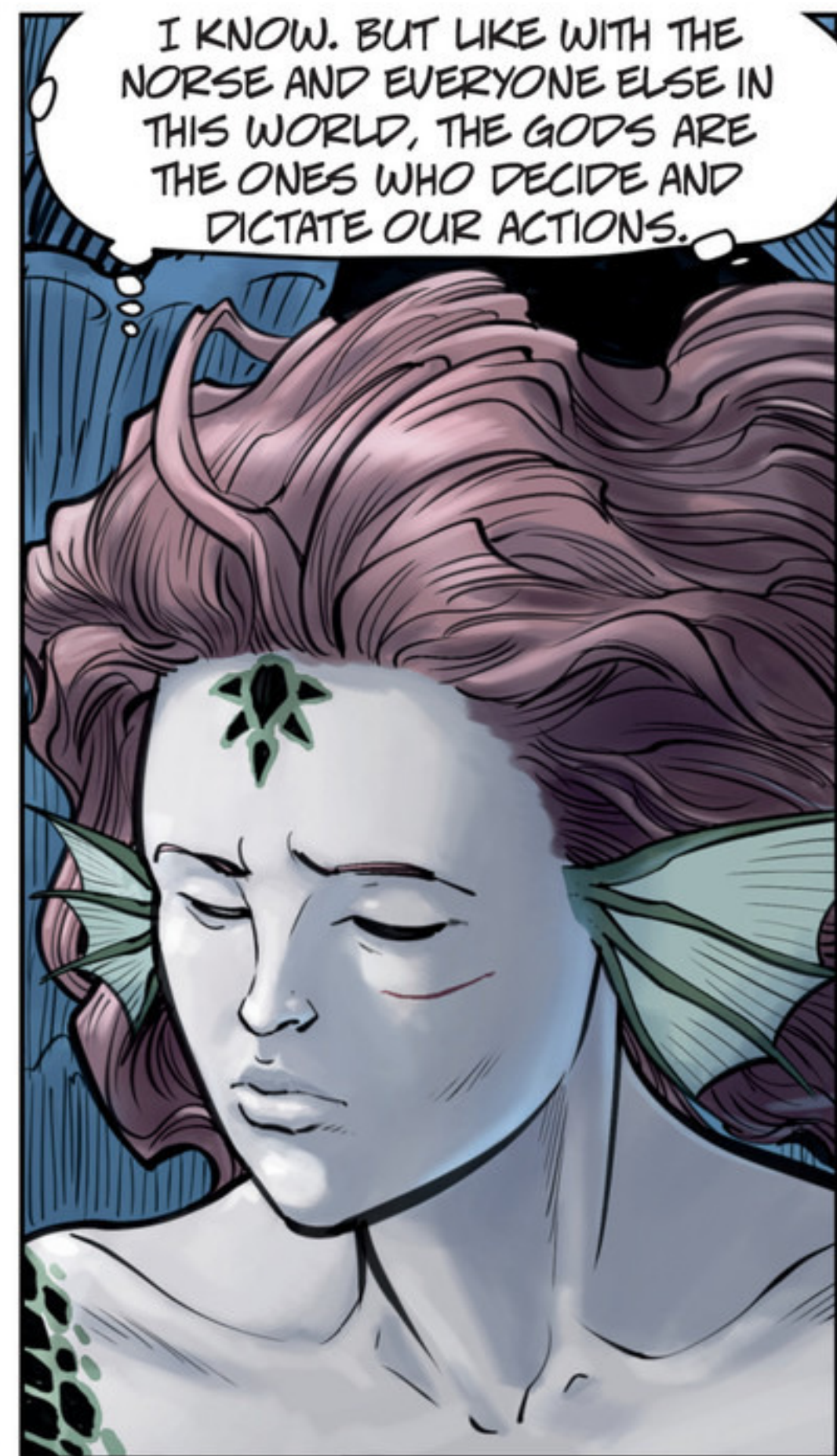
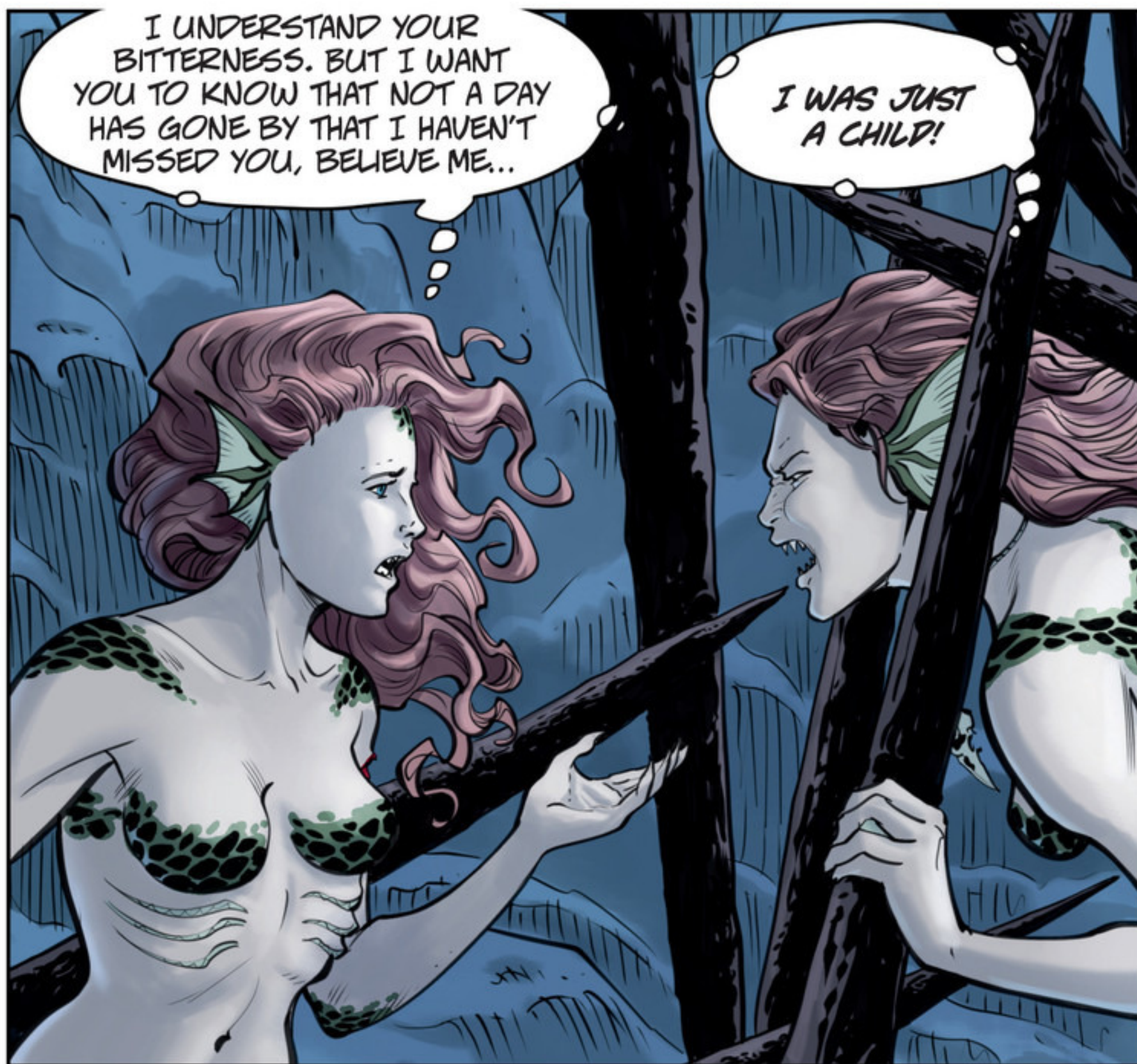
SHLAA!



AARH!









WE FOUND HER
HERE LIKE THIS,
MY JARL.



NO CLOTHES, NO
BOAT... IT'S LIKE THE
OCEAN LEFT HER HERE
FOR US TO FIND...



...OR
RETURN HER.

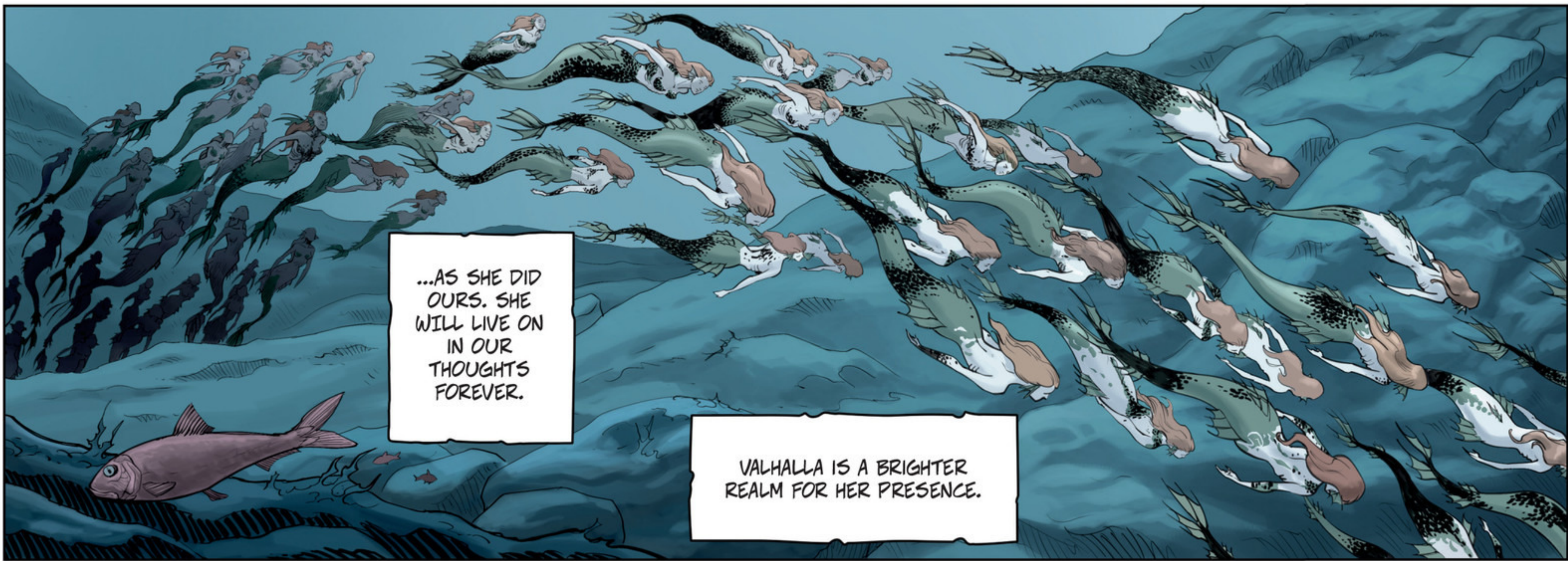


DO YOU THINK IT'S
A MESSAGE FROM
THOSE... HAVFRUES?

I THOUGHT THEY
CARRIED THEIR VICTIMS
TO THE BOTTOM OF
THE OCEAN.



THAT'S WHAT THEY
SAY. BUT FREYDIS
WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL
WARRIOR. THE
BRAVEST OF ALL
OF US. MAYBE
SHE EARNED THEIR
RESPECT...



...AS SHE DID
OURS. SHE
WILL LIVE ON
IN OUR
THOUGHTS
FOREVER.

VALHALLA IS A BRIGHTER
REALM FOR HER PRESENCE.

WARRIORS OF THE NORTH SEA

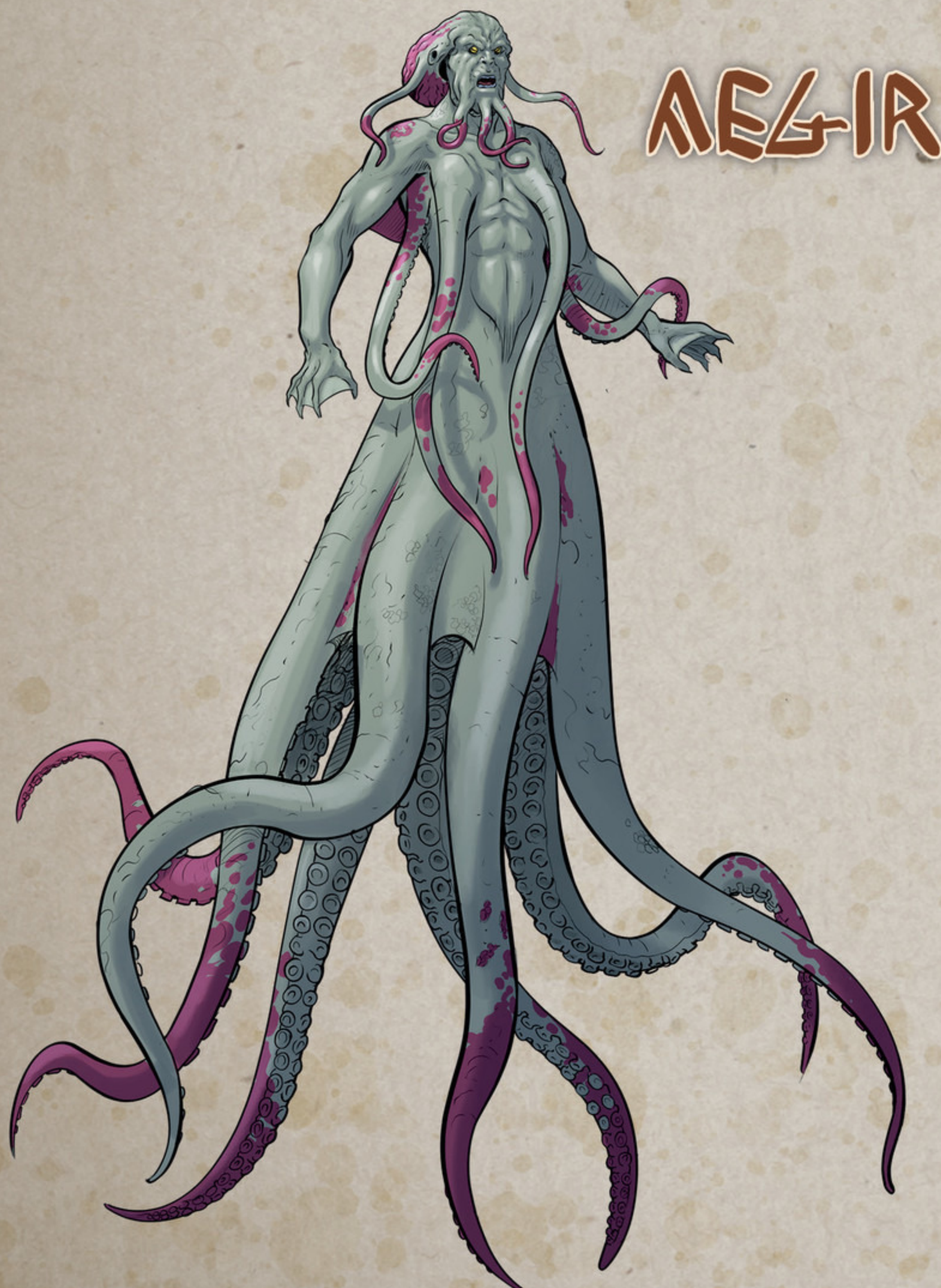
The **KINGDOM OF THE SEA** is divided into nine territories split among the nine castes of **SIRENS**. This kingdom is mostly spread out in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

Our series takes place around the ninth century, when Vikings populated the shores. The **VIKINGS** originated from Scandinavia (today Norway, Sweden, and Denmark) and became famous throughout Northern Europe for their conquest of territories and seemingly unquenchable thirst for expansion. Particularly skilled on the seas, they are formidable sailors whose command of their powerful drakkar ships prove their naval expertise. They are also fierce warriors on land, and these skills make them fearsome invaders known for their brutality. They have a rich culture, including a complex mythology encompassing stories about the exploits of their many gods.

As for the **SIRENS**, they populate the waters of this territory. They are not necessarily bloodthirsty, nor were they always enemies of humans—if they attack ships, it is usually to feed their male counterparts, indispensable for their reproduction, or because they covet wealth. They are divided into nine castes, each descended from one of the nine mermaid daughters of **RÁN** and **AEGIR**, the ultimate rulers of the seas. Each caste possesses a particular gift or power transmitted by the caste's mother mermaid. Sirens are sometimes mistaken for **JINNS**, snake-women of the eastern seas that resemble Sirens but for their longer tails. Jinns and Sirens are enemies.

NEWTs, for their part, hate humans. The male half of the Siren race, they hide within the depths of the abyss. They are very fond of human flesh, but because their evolution prevents them from approaching the seas' surface, they require the Sirens to bring them earthly creatures as sacrifices (preferably Vikings) before they will impregnate them.

THE RULERS OF THE SEAS AND THEIR NINE DAUGHTERS



AEGIR

SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS.

This giant personification of the sea can turn into a giant octopus. Usually, he looks like a half-human, half-octopus creature. While he is married to **RÁN**, it is unclear if he is the biological father of the nine Sirens since he is not a Newt. He lives in a palace made entirely of gold and riches stolen from the Vikings. His faithful servant, **ELDIR**, obeys his every command.

Descendants: The nine mother sirens.

SOVEREIGN OF THE EMPIRE OF THE DROWNED.

Rán is the last surviving member of an ancient species of Siren. Instead of the more common fish tail, her lower half resembles a large jellyfish. She has a rune on her neck as a symbol of her gift of magic. She can speak to the drowned dead who make up her kingdom. She often disagrees with her husband, **AEGIR**.

Descendants: The nine mother sirens.

RÁN





BLODUGHADDA

aka “The Siren with Blood-Colored Hair”

SUPERNATURALLY GIFTED WITH MAGICS THAT INCLUDE ILLUSIONS. THESE POWERS ARE MAINLY USED TO BEWITCH THE VIKINGS.

Blodughadda is the most mischievous of the nine sisters and takes a malicious pleasure in teasing her sisters, who consider her particularly immature. Nonetheless, she is her father’s favorite. Like her mother, she is marked on her neck by a divine rune which grants her magical powers.

No known descendants.

BYLGJA

aka “The Swell”

ABLE TO MAKE WEAPONS FROM MATERIALS DERIVED EXCLUSIVELY FROM UNDERWATER ELEMENTS (ALGAE, CORAL, FISH SKELETONS...), IN ADDITION TO POSSESSING A TALENT FOR HUNTING.

Bylgja is suspicious of other castes but—convinced that her extraordinary military skills would make the difference in any battle—she carefully maintains her reputation as a daunting warrior. This is why she is called by her sisters when they unite against the Vikings. For Bylgja, the world of the sea depths and that of the men who navigate on its surface are split evenly, and she is indifferent to the eventual Siren expansion. She acknowledges that men are more difficult to capture than before, even if her caste still manages to do so. Still, she teaches her daughters that Vikings are primarily bloodthirsty creatures.

Descendants: **ARNHILD, KLALIL, OUMNA** + many sirens.



DUFJA

aka “The Diver”

ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH AND MANIPULATE ALL AQUATIC CREATURES.

Dufa made the conch to control the **JÖRMUNGAND**, which **ARNHILD** steals from her.

Descendants: Many sirens.





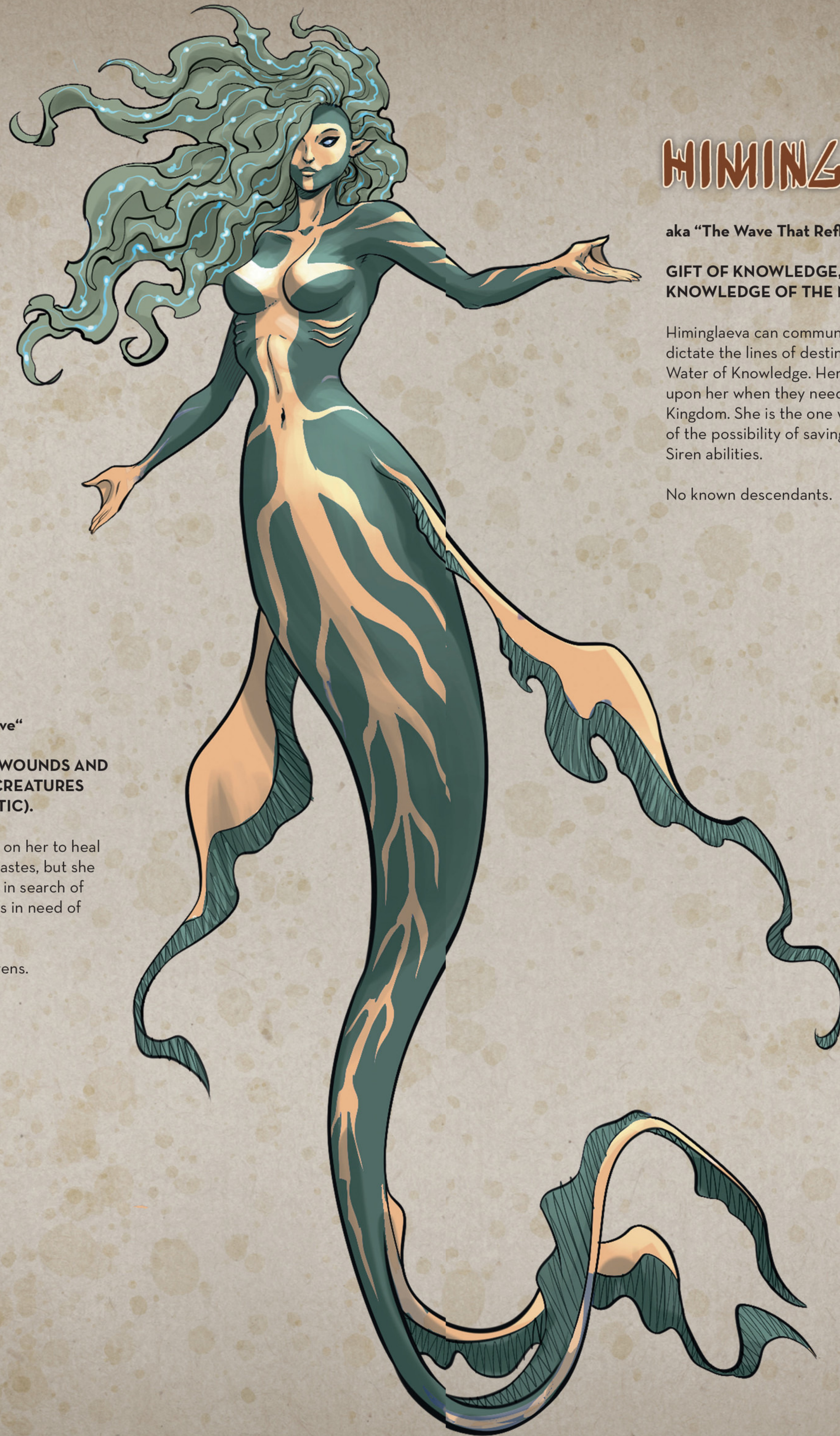
UDR

aka “The Foaming Wave”

ABLE TO HEAL THE WOUNDS AND ILLNESSES OF ALL CREATURES (HUMAN AND AQUATIC).

Udr’s family often calls on her to heal members of the nine castes, but she also travels the waters in search of other aquatic creatures in need of healing.

Descendants: Many sirens.



HIMING-LAEVA

aka “The Wave That Reflects in the Sky”

GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF THE NINE KINGDOMS.

Himinglaeva can communicate with the Norns (who dictate the lines of destiny) through the Mirror of the Water of Knowledge. Her sisters do not hesitate to call upon her when they need information about the Sea Kingdom. She is the one who informs **BLODUGHADDA** of the possibility of saving **GILDWIN** by sacrificing her Siren abilities.

No known descendants.

HEFRING

aka “The Surge”

ABLE TO TAKE ON A HUMAN APPEARANCE IN ORDER TO BREATHE AND LIVE OUT OF WATER—PROVIDED SHE REGENERATES IN SEAWATER AT LEAST ONCE A DAY.

When Hefring and her daughters transform, their mermaid tail gives way to a pair of human legs, tricking Vikings into seeing them as one of their own. Hefring abandoned her daughter **FREYDIS** when she discovered that the grey streak in **FREYDIS**’s hair meant she was doomed to bring destruction to her caste. Despite this, Hefring could not bring herself to kill her own daughter as she was ordered and instead decided to abandon her to the Vikings.

Descendants: **FREYDIS** + many sirens.





KOLGA

aka "The Raging Sea"

ABLE TO CONTROL THE WEATHER
WITHIN A RADIUS OF SEVERAL
MILES. CAN ALSO CAUSE STORMS,
TSUNAMIS, CYCLONES, OR
TORRENTIAL RAINS.

Kolga always answers the call when
her sisters ask her to stand up to the
Vikings.

Descendants: **ODRUNN** + many sirens.



HRÖNN

aka “The Rolling Wave”

GIFT OF INVISIBILITY AND CAMOUFLAGE.

Hrönn has been considered the most intelligent and mature of the nine sirens since childhood, mostly thanks to her power of invisibility, which enabled her to listen to the conversations of adults unobserved. Her sisters rejected her because her abilities scare them. Because of this, Hrönn spent most of her life on the sidelines, even going so far as to fake her own death as an adult. This allowed her to watch over the marine world from the shadows.

No known descendants.

DRÖFN

aka “The Wave”

PSYCHIC POWERS: CAN ANTICIPATE THE ENEMY’S MOVEMENTS.

Dröfn is the one who warns **HEFRING** that her daughter **FREYDIS** is cursed. She also joins her sisters in the war against the men of Hardeknud.

Descendants: Many sirens.





FREYDIS

Raised as a true Viking, Freydis is in fact a Siren from the caste capable of taking on a human appearance. Abandoned as a child by her biological mother, **HEFRING**, because of a lock of silver hair showing that she carried a curse, she developed a fierce hatred for Sirens and a deep attachment to her adopted people. She is a capable warrior, agile in battle, and a fine strategist. She seems destined for a life of adventure and conquest.

Biological mother: **HEFRING**

Adoptive mother: **OLEIV**

Adoptive father: **REIDOLF**

Love interest: **SVEIN**